

ASTROLOGIK

The Oracular Art of Astrology



ANTERO ALLI

Preface by Steven Forrest

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Notes and Acknowledgements

I am beginning to think that writing is all about rewriting; *you write until you get it right*. However, there comes a time when you must stop your fussing and send your work to the world. *Otherwise, you perish*. Revising my 1990 book, *ASTROLOGIK*, was something I felt compelled to do out of my need to discover what I'd been learning over the last ten years. I was also hungry to expose and drop any obsolete attitudes in lieu of learning new ways to *keep learning*. Though writing any book is chiefly a solitary feat, the underlying support that makes it possible often involves teamwork. First and foremost, I thank Sylvie Pickering for helping make this new version a reality. Without your confounding loyalty and serious whimsy, it never could've happened; *I love you, Sylvie*. Next, I thank my most lasting sources of astrological inspiration; the words of Steven and Jodie Forrest, Jeffrey Wolf Green, Robert Hand, Dane Rudhyar, Rob Brezsny, and Martin Schulman continue triggering new associations for my insomniac imagination. I also thank Mark Lerner, intrepid editor of *PLANET EARTH Astrology Journal*, for believing in my words when I doubted them. *Thank you all; you are a part of me now*.

This revised edition of ASTROLOGIK is dedicated to the memory of my father, Arto Alli.

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PREFACE

"The primary intention of a transpersonal force is to deliver SHOCK." So writes Antero Alli, not too many pages into ASTROLOGIK. He's speaking of Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, but he could be describing himself. Read a few pages. You'll see what I mean. This guy will rattle you. I first met Antero in Eugene, Oregon, in August of 1988. We were both speaking at an astrological conference sponsored by Mark Lerner's magazine, "Welcome to Planet Earth." From sixty feet away, I didn't like him. Just a gut reaction; mistrust. Ice. Looking back, I think it was my reptile-brain kicking in; something primal in us fears the chaos-monster. And Antero is definitely that. I don't know if he was wearing black leather that day. Probably not. But that's how I remember him. Like a bad-ass biker. Dangerous.

Then I heard him speak, and I liked him a lot better. But not everybody did. He tore into the fabric of comfortable lies and convenient denials that constitute the shadow-side of the "New Age." He told the truth, but not gently. He made a lot of people squirm. I think I was on the periphery of a collective hallucination. I think a lot of people remember Antero in black leather that day, although he could have been naked. The social wheels turned. Handshake time rolled around. I can't remember who introduced us, but I do remember receiving yet another shock: close up, Antero Alli was disarmingly warm and undefended, even a little shy. At that range, my inner reptile reversed its position: I liked him instantly. The black leather was gone. The man was very human, and touchingly tuned into his lady-love, the elfin-eyed Camille.

Conferences are rollercoasters, and our cars never crossed again. But some kind of connection was forged. We later exchanged astrological reading on cassette through the mail. His impressed me deeply. On tape, Antero the showman/shaman was replaced by Antero the gentle wizard. I've experienced the work of many astrologers. Never have I encountered one whose language and worldview were such close genetic kin to my own. Close, but not the same. That to me is Antero's genius: he entered my universe, then played a note ever so slightly out of key. Resonances and nodes formed; tremors were loosened. Something in me moved.

ASTROLOGIK is poured in the same mold. Superficially, it's another astrological primer, with the structurally predictable philosophical overture, followed by a tour of the signs, planets, and houses, then an effort to weave them together. As such, it succeeds admirably. But there's more. In the lines, between the lines, Antero weaves a web of subversion. He subverts the childish "Uranus made me do it" assumptions that permeate traditional astrology books. He undercuts the patriarchal ancient-wisdom-from-on-high model that has dignified and immunized errors in astrological theory since the days of Ptolemy. He writes, "Astrology, like any language, is incomplete; it does not provide answers but only descriptions of possibilities." And later, in classic Alli style: "Answers are anti-improvisational sedatives that will eventually put you to sleep. Just say NO to answers."

I don't know if *ASTROLOGIK* will become popular; I hope so. I know I'm proud to be writing this preface. If the book does find a wide market, I'll take that success to be a healthy omen for astrology's future. Of one point I'm pretty confident: with this volume, Antero will make some enemies, and they'll all be paleolithic members of the Planets-as-Puppetmasters school. If you're new to celestial symbolism, I think you're fortunate to be starting with *ASTROLOGIK*. You'll be learning twenty-first century astrology, and picking up some armor against the medieval stuff that still eats too many pine trees. If you've been consorting with the cosmic muse for years, get ready to lose your virginity all over again.

Either way, take some advice from the man in hallucinatory leather: "...don't let your resistances trick you into disinterest. Stay committed: put on the pressure, fine-tune the focus, initiate the "stepping-back-to-get-a-view" approach, the Asking More Questions strategy and any other device to keep learning new ways of learning."

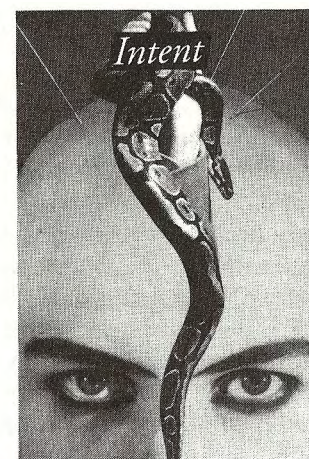
Read, enjoy, and fasten your seatbelts.

STEVEN FORREST
Chapel Hill, NC USA
Pisces 1990

WARNING

by Rob Brezsny

You hold in your hands the antidote to: John Quigley's paranoid and tabloidal astrology, the KGD bunker of the Amazing Randi's infantile debunking of things unseen, the sewage of the bliss-ravaged New Age and the champion of the emerging Aquarian Age majority of skeptical believers. Antero Alli is the architect of a rowdy and iridescent system of astrology that liberates and never ensnares. His newly invented astrologikal language thrills and nourishes with its pithy and very personable rhythms. He can shock you in the friendliest way. He can teach you to teach yourself, and give you the authority to make sure you never attribute to him authoritarian expertise. I suspect that Antero travels periodically to the future, where he extracts the threshold perceptions with which he so lovingly dismantles our favorite fanaticisms. He's not a hero, because there's no such thing anymore. And, he's not an anti-hero because that's a media-induced cliché which explains nothing. Maybe he's a gnostic wiseguy or the daemonically compassionate astral spawn of Wilhelm Reich and Anais Nin. Or, the Gurdjieffian clown who distracted the dweller of the threshold with a kick in the ass, so you and I got to sneak through the gate for free.



astrology without tears

ASTROLOGY WITHOUT TEARS

The trouble with astrology is it works. Like a new Porsche, you don't have to believe in it for it to start up and run. I don't even know if I believe in astrology yet it works and, it seems to work better for some people than for others; I suspect it works for those people who've figured out that *it's just a language*. As with any language, real understanding tends to begin by interpreting it for yourself. That's what I had to do, not only to write this book but to practice astrology, period. For the longest time, I stayed away from astrologers and astrology books. I found the existing terminology archaic and pretentious. Consequently I've changed three key terms (Houses, Planets, Signs) to signify, in my view, their more innate meanings (*States, Forces and Styles*). More on this later...

To many, astrology is anything but a language. This misunderstanding has turned astrology into a kind of symbolic scapegoat, confusing it with new age, mumbo jumbo, psychobabble, evil occultism. So, there's bad news and there's better news. The bad news is that most astrological authors don't Talk Normal or Write Well, thereby unleashing far too many garrulous tomes called Most Astrology Books. It's no wonder why so many people avoid astrology and why it's been such an easy target for critics of astrology. I believe a basic naivete of semantic theory may be the culprit. In my opinion, astrology is not a belief system or a religion nor an occult science or a fast food; *it is a language*. My view is that astrology is closer to being an art, than a science. The good news is because most people are still in the dark about how astrology really works, they can still *learn the language and find out for themselves*. The first thing to know about real astrology is that it's *a language*. The second thing to know about astrology is that it has little to do with planets or stars. *What ?!* Long ago, astrology and astronomy were joined at the hip to calculate planetary shifts for predicting the timing of human fates; ancient Egypt, Babylonian, the Aztec, the Maya...

Down-To-Earth Astrology

After the Age of Reason (Descartes), astrology soon lost its status as a science and was tossed into the dim bin of superstition. Astrology, as presented in this book, is not "in the stars" but a human language for seeing into, and sometimes through, the psyche itself. The third thing to know about astrology is that it's a human language articulating the psyche's interactions with living forces of nature. There are as many different approaches to astrology as there are astrologers reading charts. Depending on your point of view, the preceding statement can support an argument *for or against* astrology. I don't understand why differing opinions of the same astrology chart diminishes their relevance. I know this is a bit of a stretch but medical doctors repeatedly disagree on the diagnosis and treatment of the same disease. I believe it forms the basis of healthy conflict and dialogue

My aim with this book is to shift the context for using astrology; from a metaphysical system people study to better understand themselves to a navigational relief map to better *realize ourselves*. From where I'm sitting, it's far too late for mere understanding; we only have time to begin living more honestly. ASTROLOGIK does not care about Sun sign astrology (read newspaper columns for that). It turns out that your Sun sign symbolizes one of many forces constantly interacting with other forces of your totality. Traditional astrology tracks these forces by calling them *planets*. To think of ourselves in terms of stars and planets is what I meant earlier by archaic, pretentious language. In ASTROLOGIK, planets will simply be referred to as *forces*. Instead of projecting our power onto "out-there" planets, we'll remain right here on Planet Earth and use **astrological symbols** to track living forces within ourselves, our interactions with others and life in general. There will be no talk of planets running people's lives or any excuse for justifying our problems because "Pluto was sitting on my Moon when Uranus squared his Venus from her Third House". Give me a brake! My intention is to stay down-to-earth inside real, live human issues and leave the quandaries of what it all means for you to decide.

Tendencies, Not Absolutes

The principles each planetary symbol represents exist within us as specific forces. For example, Mars refers to the force of will; its placement in our chart shows how we **tend to** instigate action; *what energizes us.* The force of will is already within us; we'll track it by calling it "Mars." With practice, we can map the motion and timing of the forces shaping our lives and maybe learn something about shaping our own futures to coincide with something more innate and less culturally-conditioned (and hence, boring). Not unlike the language of quantum mechanics, we'll study characteristic *tendencies* (not absolutes) exhibited by the forces that be. We can do so by staying aware of the linguistic nature of astrology. Mistake it for anything else and it stops acting like a language and starts behaving like a dogma. By thinking in terms of "tendencies", rather than answers and absolutes, we can nurture imagination, creative thinking and speculation; valuable tools when tracking the unpredictable forces and chaotic tendencies of our real lives.

One way to sharpen your process of interpreting information is by updating the definition for the term "information" itself. Repeat after me: *information is now the unpredictability of a message; the more unpredictable the message, the more information there is in it.* This book was originally written in 1990 and then revised in 1999 after reading hundreds of astrology charts during the global chaos of the Nineties: collapse of the Berlin Wall, weather anomalies, AIDS, massive pollution, germ warfare, terrorism, government resignations, rainforest depletion, expanding ozones; the list goes on. *A cosmic tsunami has arrived and it is us.* We are all, to varying degrees, subject to the millennium shock waves. Some of us are truly overwhelmed by these waves; our personal lives spinning out into larger collective shifts of history in the re-making. Others are privy to the immense beauty and the grandeur of a roaring cosmos bucking under the sway of its own transmutations and futile social structures; these are glorious, terrifying, exhilarating, brain-numbing times. They've also been extraordinary for interpreting horoscopes of those living through it all.

A Neuro-Navigational Compass

This book is custom-designed as a kind of neuro-navigational compass for reading present-time ground swells, wind-chill factors, visibility, storm warnings and the omnidirectional currents common to sailing the open seas of real life. Astrology, however, will not stop anything from happening. Yet, a good relief map can help you respond to the course of your life; your *responsibility*. As the great swelling crest of history crashes onto the shores of our 21st Century future...who amongst us will dive, swim, surf, float, and sail it in...and who will capsize, sink, drown and join the casualties? Nobody knows nor can astrology predict. So, what's the point of astrology? Good question.

Your chart is your personal relief map; if you don't have one, get one and memorize it or, keep it on your person until you do. You will need your chart to use this book; you will need your imagination to interpret your chart. ASTROLOGIK will **NOT** show you how to mathematically construct an astrology chart; we leave that task to the computer software companies. This book is about INTERPRETATION. Any and all information you pick up here may only hold value by the interpretation **you give it.** By itself, information may only amount to so much dead data awaiting the "neural activation" of your most personal and honest translation. By putting your self-interpreted knowledge to test in the lab of real life, you stand a greater chance of increasing your native intelligence. Any assumed knowledge that is tested against the life you are actually living provides its own feedback by confirming or negating your assumptions. When reality distorts your ideals, let them go and/or adjust them. Or suffer the consequences of humiliation and embarrassment. *What fools we can be!* When real life does confirm your assumptions, we pick up renewed confidence and faith in our views. Astrology maps the timing of change more than anything else. Look at your map as a kind of time-release capsule; its various nutrients (forces) activate at differing times (transits) during their assimilation in the body of the life you are living.

The Timing of Change

Some forces will remain latent for years, while others avail themselves as soon as you're born. The **emotional force of the Moon** opens at birth by the kind of security imprint infused, or withdrawn, by whomever played Mom. The **attractive force of Venus** magnetizes love by the way we are related with. The **motivating force of Mars** activates during our first willful reactions, like beating the side of the cradle with our fists. The **conceptual force of Mercury** clicks on as the intellect questions why things are the way they are. The timing of change differs with each person.

You are hereafter authorized to confess ignorance when you are clueless and to confess knowledge when you know something. With enough practice, it's possible to learn enough astrology to start communicating points of view you had no previous words or contexts for. Where to start learning astrology? *Pay attention to what interests you.* Some forces and styles are going to make more sense than others; take note of these. Then, learn to identify the ones you remain clueless about; the mysterious ones. These may reflect personal blind spots; aspects you don't understand about yourself. When you feel frustrated (and you will) remember that frustration and boredom are often mistaken as justifications to quit.

If you want to learn anything new, treat frustration and boredom as turning points, as signals demanding your perseverance to breakthrough. *Don't let your resistances trick you into disinterest.* Stay committed: put on the pressure, fine-tune the focus, initiate the "step-back-to-get-a-view" approach, the Asking More Questions strategy and any other device to keep learning new ways to keep learning. Like any consciousness catalyst, this book acts like a drug; use it with the awareness you would any consciousness-expansion agent. If applied directly, it may open the doors of perception and usher you into the Multidimensional Theatre of Soul where you can trade in those musty, dusty addictions to answers for a whole new line of questions. Or chase away those ambiguity blues with a fresh streamlined edge of self-defining statements!

FORCES, STATES & STYLES

How It Works: the Map & the Territory

Though the Piscean era is passing amidst this emerging Age of Aquarius, the language of astrology – *as it is chiefly practiced today* – is still swimming in fish oil, ie., the slime-mold of religious warfare, monotheistic dogma and deification of the Martyr Complex that has biased far too many astrology books using *too many words and too much dogma*. Dear Pisces; don't misunderstand. I have nothing against you as an archetype but must protest any resistance to ending a 2000-year reign. Rather than rebel or fight against you, I choose to serve the Aquarian bias for reinvention and self-government by renaming several key terms to appear throughout this book; **forces** (not planets), **styles** (not signs), and **states** (not houses). I don't assume these changes will change astrology, certainly not in any significant or relevant way. I use them for their effectiveness in interpreting astrology charts with more imagination and an eye to the liberation of others to make their own choices and govern themselves.

This obviously iconoclastic bias aims to dismantle archaic notions and obsolete images while inciting a series of tiny riots in your imaginations to re-invent yourselves, the world we live in and maybe the future itself. *I know it's ambitious.* I might add that it's no fun subverting or destroying anything unless we're also members of the reconstruction crew and, this is where you dear reader, come in. You will be asked to apply your own experience – *and your own definitions of that experience* – to whatever you read in this book. Don't think that mere understanding will prove anything without realization; *it won't*. Have faith in the intelligence of direct experience; come to your own conclusions. Rebel against the petty need to be right all the time; cultivate an excitement for getting busted in the light of greater truths. Trust that the experience of your truth can and will evolve over time, especially as you periodically question your assumptions. I invite you to question mine. Question my authority, too; I intend to question yours. In this mutual quest, perhaps we can develop ways to fine-tune our *bullshit detectors* and point them at ourselves, each other and the cosmos at large.

On Infusing the Value of Mystery

Astrology acts as an ordering principle using the number "12" to organize information. An astrology chart is divided into twelve sections, traditionally called "houses". In this book, houses are renamed **STATES** in an attempt to better engage the reality this term refers to. These twelve states on the map refer to a real-life states, or territories. In real life there are obviously more than twelve states we can enter; a reminder that astrology is *not* real life but a grid imposed over the real life chaos and complexity in an attempt to understand it. However, any understanding remains a relative affair. No matter how much we think we understand or can understand, real life remains *a mystery at best*. Reality is not only stranger than we think; it may be stranger than we *can* think; *now think about that...*

With this sense of mystery in perspective, look to each of the twelve states as symbolic of a specific territory in your life. For example, if you want information on your profession (public image, career goals, status) study the Midheaven and the contents of your Tenth State of Reputation. If you want to know more about your creative process, look at the style governing your Fifth Creative State and any forces residing therein. To enter any state, embody or enact the archetypal style governing it; *meet the guardian of that threshold*. With *or without* astrology, the various states we get into can always be catalyzed by ourselves, others, and by circumstantial external forces beyond our control. Using your map is a way to approach this same process more intentionally. It is possible to detect, name and map out these states; yet, astrology does *not* make them happen. The sources of our experience are deeper than that. What are the sources moving the planets themselves? Where is God in all this? Maintaining this value of mystery acts on the imagination as a nurturing influence allowing a more creative, inspired interpretation of astrology. Avoid pat answers like, "Your Neptune conjuncts my Moon and that's why my emotions go ga-ga around you". Why this need for absolutes? Maybe to get a handle on things or, create meaning when we don't know how to bear the uncertainty. Whatever the case, *mystery deserves your respect*. By doing so, you can develop a more soulful (imaginative) approach to interpreting the language.

The No Coincidences Dept.

Real life conditions often overlap, converge and collide inside fateful moments we call *coincidence*, the meaningful and simultaneous convergence of two or more fates, or timelines. When these so-called coincidences occur more often than not, or when we grow more aware of their repetition, can we still call them coincidental? Or, have we entered *The No Coincidences Dept.* to walk the corridors of endless synchronicity where the multiple aspects of who, what and where we are coincide and interact on many levels at once. A different facet of our totality emerges when we're alone (Ascendant), with our family or at home (Nadir), with our beloved (Descendent) and promoting our public image (Midheaven). Like giants raised as dwarves, we are all multidimensional beings who have settled for less. It is time to restore our power and as we now know, knowledge is power; *self-knowledge = self-empowerment*. Generally speaking, your self-knowledge is proportionate to the lack of self-denial surrounding *the state you are in*. Whether it's physical, emotional, psychological or spiritual...any state you inhabit exists *in a particular time and place* and forms its own completely legitimate *orientation*. It remains legit by the very fact that it exists. By virtue of its very existence, any orientation is subject to change.

**"OnLy ThaT WhiCH EXisTS
iS subjECT tO: CHaNgE..."**

(please submit to memory)

An astrology chart expresses our potential; not every state, force or style has been actualized yet. Using astrology to live your life more fully is not just a good idea; it is also why I wrote this book. It is also why astrological transits work on some people more than others; *not everyone is ready or willing to really exist*. Those that do, tend to be more subject to the forces that be. Like the wind rippling through a field of tall grass, those who exist give more form to the expression of life.



To Be or Not To Be, That is the Quest

We come to know the nature of existence by our acceptance of the state we are in, no matter what its nature; *it still exists*. Our willingness to subject ourselves to the state we're in -- *not the state we wish to be in or should be in or could've been in if only this, that or the other were different* -- this very willingness nurtures what I've been calling your *totality*. With courage, you can drop all those self-imposed apologies for existing and let go of your excuse-riddled reasons for not really living your life. In the meantime, you can support your ongoing liberation as an entity by your *admittance of the obvious*. Throw vanity to the winds to celebrate a more full-bodied alliance with existence. Over time, this self-acceptance deepens and strengthens a newfound capacity to give of yourself. With more self to give, you are only happy to do so. Keep all this in mind when you study the twelve states on your map. All of them represent real-life states to explore, admit to and live through. Use your map to find the territory; *everything else is abstract*.

How Planetary Symbols Are Created

Each planetary symbol is designed by a combination of three universal glyphs: the *equilateral cross*, the *circle* and the *half-circle or, crescent*.



This cross symbolizes *orientation*; four directions (N,S,E,W) also correspond to the vertical/horizontal axis of the astrological chart itself.



A circle represents *totality*, unity or wholeness.



A crescent signifies *receptivity* and the human integration of orientation and totality.

Personal and Transpersonal Forces

Traditional astrology relates the planetary glyphs on the astrology chart to out-there planets in our solar system. Not to belabor the point but I don't think the out-there planets are the source of our experience: the states we get into, the forces we encounter and the way (the style) it all happens. This "planets-as-puppeteers" kind of astrology may reflect a more Piscean bias of projecting the source of authority outside ourselves. There's nothing wrong with the Piscean archetype; the notion of living in the past simply bothers me. My intent is to update the language to coincide more with present-time realities, ie., *the Aquarian Age is here*. To encourage a more Aquarian bias I suggest replacing the word "planets" with ***FORCES***. This new term refers to the living forces animating our existing states; force of habit, force of ideas, force of belief, forces of nature, socioeconomic and political forces, the force of our resistances to life itself.

The Shock of Transpersonal Forces

Forces tend to fall into two major categories with plenty of overlay between them; I'll call these *personal and transpersonal forces*. Transpersonal forces are symbolized astrologically by Uranus, Neptune and Pluto; they signify realities within and around us that are not always subject to our control and/or conceptual comprehension. We often know them by their effects and in their wake. Transpersonal experiences provoke states that force us into some kind of ego-surrender and realignment with more innate, objective conditions. The intention of transpersonal forces seems to be *the deliverance of outside shock*.

Each of these three transpersonal forces deliver three distinct types of shock. The idea here is that transpersonal experiences and forces administer sudden (Uranus), diffusive (Neptune) and deep (Pluto) shocks to areas necessitating change and/or realignment with more core truths. Natal placements of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto indicate those states carrying greatest shock potential. Shocks, however, can and do occur in any state regardless on what transits are happening and with whom you are sleeping with. These outer three planets also move the slowest of all the forces, carrying entire generations of people with them, ie., everybody born from 1940-1956 has Pluto in Leo. As a result, these three transpersonal forces relate our personal lives to larger socioeconomic, political and cultural shifts.

The subversive force of *Chiron* (a comet orbiting between Saturn and Uranus) acts as a kind of intermediating agent between transpersonal forces and the personal forces symbolized by Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. These *personal forces* symbolize how we can shape and determine our lives through personal effort. The personal forces function as *EGO-STABILIZERS* and comprise the varied components of our psychological makeup and the development of personality. The personal forces are malleable enough to be subject to conditioning from society and, with great effort from ourselves. When combined and integrated, these personal forces provide a strategy for the maturation of the personality.

Personal Forces and Free Will

The impact from life's transpersonal shocks and how we personally respond to them contributes greatly to the outcome of our fates. Is personality a modern word for fate? Each personal force represents a distinct level of personal response, or *response-ability*, that offers much in the way (the style) we experience life. Is there free will? *Only in the personality*. How much free will can we experience? As much as you are taking personal responsibility for. Destiny and fate are two words often confused to mean the same thing. What I mean by destiny is the style by which you choose, or are given, to approach your fate. Fate is a word for what happens, no matter what and it is always unknown. Can you truthfully tell what is going to happen next? Be honest now...

STYLES and GOVERNORS

Each of the twelve signs, from Aries to Pisces, exist within each of us as a "spectrum of styles" by which our totality knows and conveys itself. To encourage their use, the astrological signs will hereafter be called STYLES. To various degrees of visibility, all twelve styles hang as cloaks, hats and shoes inside your multidimensional closet; what is "subconscious" or unknown to you about yourself. By learning the distinct characteristics of each style and assigning personal meaning to them, it is possible to start drawing from ourselves facets previously unknown. Look at the periphery of your chart; the outer circle of styles. In traditional astrology, these are called "house cusp rulers"; each one governs the house it precedes. Instead of calling them house cusp rulers, I suggest the term GOVERNOR; I like how this word supports a bias of self-government. Picture the entire chart as the United States of Oneself; every state in our union has its own governor. Studying your governors is a good way to acquaint yourself with the entrance procedures of your existing states. By embodying the astrological style of any given governor you can access its state, activating the force(s) there and, *do it on purpose*.

WARNING This tactic may increase your awareness of repeating coincidences and synchronicity. Accelerating synchronicity may be hazardous to your belief systems. Proceed with conscience.

How It Works

States, Forces & Styles: A Review

Your chart is a circular map divided into twelve sections, each referring to the territory of a specific area of life activity. These twelve areas are called **STATES** (as in state of being, state of security, state of mind, etc.).

Planets will be called **FORCES**. When you find a planetary symbol in a **STATE**, it refers to a specific **FORCE** that tends to come alive as activities innate to that state are engaged. With more than one force in a state, there is the potential for activating a *chain reaction of forces*. States with no symbols in them do not imply an absence of force or experience in that area. An absence of symbols in any state exposes the incompleteness of astrology.

*No one system is capable of conveying
the whole truth and nothing but the truth.*

All twelve astrological signs, from Aries to Pisces, will be called **STYLES** as a fashionable device to encourage the embodiment of your multidimensional nature. This spectrum of twelve styles are inherent to each person, in various degrees of expression and latency. Styles also convey how a certain state is accessed, as Governors (or house cusp rulers) demonstrate, and how the forces themselves can be known to us. Forces, not unlike the "archetypes" of Jungian psychology, are invisible yet given color and form by the particular style they pass through. For example, we may not know the pure solar force (symbolized by the Sun) without the "filter" of our unique sun sign, or *style of Self-realization*.

The Personal Forces



SUN; the Self-realizing force of ego structures; the will to become ourselves; the force of being



MOON; emotional force of attachment; force of habit; comfort needs; happiness or depression



MERCURY; force of thoughts; analytical style; how information is interpreted; ideational processes



VENUS; attracting force of how love & beauty is known; aesthetic style; what magnetizes us



MARS; motivating force of will; what is lived for; will to act; physical sexual style; what drives us



JUPITER; force of conscience; combined force of faith, beliefs & ethics; an expanding force



SATURN; manifesting force; combined forces of fear and commitment; a contracting force

The Transpersonal Forces



CHIRON; destabilizing & rearranging force; kundalini activating force of subversion



URANUS; liberating force; sudden shock of freedom through the exposure of oppression

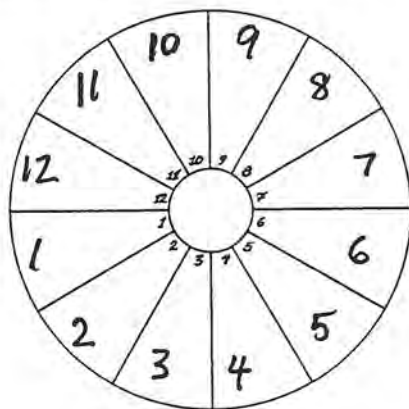


NEPTUNE; dreaming force of ideals and expectations; diffusive shock of unity in the exposure of illusory boundaries



PLUTO; the transforming force; deep shock of loss, death/rebirth in the exposure of mortality

THE TWELVE STATES



1) State of Being

The Act; what is personified in our behavior

2) State of Security

values defining constancy; what needs earning

3) State of Mind

how we learn, interpret & communicate

4) Home State

emotional, domestic and soul sustenance

5) Creative State

the pleasures of romance, adventure, and art

6) State of Service

routines necessary to survival maintenance

7) State of Intimacy

rituals of courtship, intimacy and relationship

8) State of Surrender

transformative cycles of death/rebirth/sexuality

9) State of Faith

how truth is known and made into beliefs & dogmas

10) State of Reputation

goals and ambitions; what needs public recognition

11) Community State

how friendship is defined and a social life realized

12) Subconscious State

what lives in mystery and mysticism; repressions

The 12 Astrological Styles



ARIES: activating; bold, courageous and taking charge to assert itself; impulsive



TAURUS: stabilizing; persistent and thorough application to establish constancy; dependable



GEMINI: diversifying; nimble, curious and attentive to details & options to stay informed; ambiguous



CANCER: rooting; tenacious, sensitive and emotional enough to feel personally involved; natural & familiar



LEO: improvising; generous, fun-loving and creative maintaining of its own world; talented & artistic



VIRGO: organizing; skillful, discerning and clever tactics & devices for remaining useful; meticulous



LIBRA: harmonizing; adaptive, gracious and perceptive of others to assure relationship; tactful



SCORPIO: provoking; strategic, resourceful & confrontive approach to unveil the essence; intense



SAGITTARIUS: searching; adventurous, direct and open inquiry for expanding its own truth; nomadic



CAPRICORN: ambitious; stolid diligence about attaining goals, status and mastery; competent



AQUARIUS: visualizing; quirky, inventive and detached enough to maintain its autonomy; rebellious



PISCES: unifying; an intuitive, absorbing receptivity to the underlying unity of Life; imaginative

Nodal Axis, Elements & Modes

Each chart has its nodal axis for articulating an orientation between past and future realities, as well as a personal context for detecting and uniting meaningful oppositions. North and south nodes are always in opposite states and styles. (See STYLES section for more info on the nodal axis)



SOUTH NODE

"karma" inherited from previous lives and early present-life upbringing; memory, depth and expertise; familiar assimilation zone for processing new info; when over-emphasized, produces inertia



NORTH NODE

the "dharma" of present-time calling; challenging, growth-provoking point; vortex of novelty; the style by which destiny is formed as a response to fate; when activate, awareness of synchronicity expands

ELEMENTS

FIRE (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius)

activating, intuitive, inspired, excitable

EARTH (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn)

pragmatic, stable, manifesting, reliable

AIR (Gemini, Libra, Aquarius)

thoughtful, curious, interactive, conceptual

WATER (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces)

feeling, psychic, empathic, emotional

MODES

CARDINAL (Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn)

dynamic, outgoing radiant influence

FIXED (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius)

internal, concentrating magnetic influence

MUTABLE (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces)

mingling, circulating, distributing influence



the forces

The Personal Forces

Towards the Development of Personality

The personal forces -- signified by the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn -- interact as the malleable substance of our distinctly human tendencies. These forces express the struggle, development and crystallization of a *personality*, and the ability to make conscious choices that actually influence and shape our fates; *think of personality as a modern word for fate*. Unlike the transpersonal forces (of Chiron, Uranus, Neptune & Pluto), personal forces are malleable enough to be subject to our control and comprehension. Their combined effects empower our lives as shapers and creators of our own reality. Our personal forces confirm what we are able to do with our lives and hold together the weave of our sense of self (Sun), thoughts (Mercury), emotions (Moon), relations (Venus), actions (Mars), beliefs (Jupiter) and responsibilities (Saturn). With enough self-observation and concerted effort, we can adjust our sense of self, ideas, emotions, relations, actions, beliefs and responsibilities to coincide with the life we are actually living *rather than the life we think we should be living if only this, that or the other were different*.

The personal forces express attributes of our psychology; what we can know about ourselves and when developed and integrated, what can be allowed to mature. Transits from any of these forces act on us in more personal ways than the indifferent shocks received from the more transpersonal forces. To make the most of transits from personal forces, learn to match their energies. To work with Saturn transits, muster up the persistent force of your commitment in the area Saturn is passing through. With Jupiter transits, show more faith in wherever it's traversing in your chart. Wherever transiting Mars goes, take more action to get things done. Transits from the personal forces do not necessarily make things happen but accentuate your personal investments of commitment (Saturn), faith (Jupiter), action (Mars), love (Venus), care (Moon) and thought (Mercury). Our first task, however, is to study the forces themselves...

THE SUN



A point in the center of a circle represents the periphery, or circumference, of being. The Sun is set apart from the rest of the symbols by its stellar status as a star. Besides the nodal axis, Moon and Chiron, it's also the only glyph in ASTROLOGIK that doesn't symbolize a planet. The Sun refers to *how we absorb, contain and transmit light*; where and how we shine. Like the properties of *heat and light* common to all stars, the Sun offers an apt metaphor for Self-realization; the deeper we live our lives, the more illumination and warmth we impart.

Despite its stellar status, the Sun doesn't necessarily dominate other astrological forces; it's just one force among many. Like some egos, some stars do over-emphasize themselves, implode and burn out; *today's star is tomorrow's black hole*. Exaggerated self-importance, hubris and arrogance are symptoms of encroaching solar burn-out. The Sun's purpose grows more obvious in its capacity for producing endless opportunities for Self-realization.

The Sun symbolizes a partial projection of Self; "*the one chosen to represent the whole*." Like an ambassador to the United States of Oneself, the Sun represents the totality it shines from. A path of Self-realization is revealed by the state our Sun; its specific challenges: the style it shines through. A Third State Pisces Sun is on a path of compassionate self-interpretation. A Tenth State Leo Sun trail blazes on a path of creative accomplishment. Through Self-realization a sense of purpose emerges, accompanied by a growing sense of being. I am; I exist. Not everyone embodies their Sun sign to the same extent; *not everybody is motivated &/or willing to realize themselves*. In society, true individuality is an exception to the rule; not everybody knows how or wants to live deeply enough to BECOME themselves. Self-realizing individuals are rare. They find a place in society by how well they can play within the rules of the local social ethos and zeitgeist; *sometimes, there's a fine line between celebrity and crime*.



As an archetype, there's something protean and heroic about the Sun. The human spirit triumphs whenever we rise to the occasion of realizing our given challenges, symbolized by our Sun sign. When we witness someone breaking out of socially-conditioned cages to become the stars they were meant to be, our stellar nature cheers them on. Our solar placement coincides with our birthday; what is inherited as a birthright. Those born a Taurus Sun inherit the necessity for stabilizing themselves, as much as those born under Scorpio inherit the passion for transforming themselves. A Sun sign challenges the willingness to give birth to oneself as *an entity*. When the solar force is activated, a singularity is ignited; we are "in our element." How long we can burn and stay lit depends on our fuel supply and how the Sun's fire is tempered by aspects shared with other forces. *Everybody is Not a Star*. There are true lunar types who derive great pleasure and purpose by fixating their orbit around a self-spinning star and realizing a more receptive way of being themselves. Forceful solar types also develop the need to engage more passive, lunar phases to cool off and rest their big, hot egos. Paths to Self-realization are many, depending not only on the placement of our Sun but its interactions (aspects) with other forces. When the Sun is ignored or neglected, one's "light" is put on hold and we suffer a kind of self-diminishment.

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

path of self-realization; Self as power source;
over-emphasis produces "black hole" of arrogance

STELLAR POLARITIES

Solar personality types (strong Sun placements) are often possessed of strong gravitational centers that magnetize more lunar personalities, or satellites of lesser centers, to orbit around them. As all fledgling stars discover, there are many types of satellites: when you're hot, everybody wants to be your friend. Psychic vampires, sugar-frosted fakes and other cosmic debris feed on the energies of more naive power sources until they learn to identify them. This selection process needs refining before rising stars can begin entertaining reciprocal orbits with other stars. Latent stars can also escalate their own self-spin by orbiting around brighter, hotter stars until enough acceleration occurs to jump orbit and shine on their own heat, light and spin. As every style of the zodiac has its upside and downside, each Sun sign has its negative/positive polarity. To the degree both sides of our solar nature are identified, embraced and lived through, is the degree we can generate ourselves as sources of heat and light; *we become as stars*. Assuming most people are (as of yet) not completely self-realized, the Sun sign represents our potential as power sources. Self-realizing individuals are power sources in the making, energetic dynamos of self-generating heat, light and force. The key to unlocking our potential as stars is the unequivocal Self-acceptance for living out the brilliant and the darker aspects of who, in essence, we are. This means embracing the true qualities of our Sun sign, as well as their more unflattering distortions.

Examples of internal solar polarities

ARIES: tyrannical/spontaneous
TAURUS: stubborn/loyal
GEMINI: superficial/informed
CANCER: smothering/nourishing
LEO: vain/generous
VIRGO: anal/skillful
LIBRA: indecisive/fair
SCORPIO: vengeful/authentic
SAGITTARIUS: evasive/direct
CAPRICORN: laconic/dignified
AQUARIUS: insolent/innovative
PISCES: limp/inspired

THE MOON



The crescent symbolizes receptivity. The Moon's natal placement signifies where (the state) and how (the style) we've been passively absorbing and reacting to daily experience since birth. This force reminds us of what is most familiar and comforting, in addition to where and how we feel most at home. Whenever Life gets too "strange", our daily lives take on increasingly unfamiliar twists and turns; we feel emotionally uprooted. Yet "strange" is a very subjective term; what is strange to one person is utterly familiar to another. The Moon represents our deepest subjectivity around what's most familiar, habitual, and comforting; it's where we go, or want to go, when life gets really strange.

The natal Moon can tell us how we feed, feel and nurture ourselves, as well as, how our emotions are assimilated and sorted out; the Chill-Out zone. A 9th State Moon may need to be alone or browse metaphysical bookstores; an 11th State Moon might hang with friends or sit in a crowded cafe. When integrated, the Moon contributes to our emotional maturity and happiness. In a state of emotional denial, we gravitate towards secondary comfort substitutes; food, drugs, alcohol, sex, TV, work. The Moon can also symbolize our addictions.

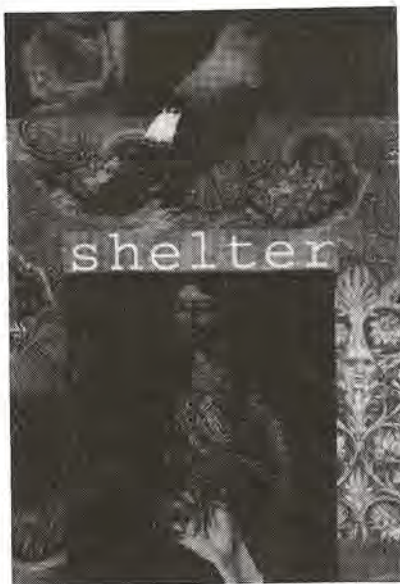
The Moon symbolizes instinctual processes such as hunger, self-preservation, safety and dependency. We tend to feed off of and grow attached to activities innate to the state of our natal Moon; what we're hungry for and how we satisfy ourselves. Lose touch with what your Moon represents and you increase the chances for suffering depression. The Moon also represents our most basic level of biological intelligence and body wisdom; picture the human organism as the personification of subconscious. The body never lies; it takes emotional honesty to live and to have a personal life.

The Moon expresses what is most "personal" to ourselves; how we need to be touched and moved before we're personally involved. The Moon is also where we need to be emotionally invested to be happy. A Sagittarius Moon is happy in uplifted, expanded states. A Cancer Moon is satisfied by being its emotions. The Moon relates to food: what we eat, why we eat, as well as, eating disorders like *bolemia* and *anorexia*.

It's natural to grow more tenacious and territorial around whatever brings satisfaction to our lives and so, the Moon is where we're ego-invested. Our specific lunar placement can show sensitivity and defensiveness around anything it feels as an attack; where we grow crabby. Capricorn Moon gets touchy around its niches; Aquarius Moon gets prickly around its freedom. Scorpio Moon feels its emotions deeply and can grow irritable if pressured to share them too quickly.

Our first biological imprint stems from our biological dependency in the placental womb of our genetic mothers. Our natal Moon can tell us about her influence, presence and absence during our childhood. Virgo Moon may've had a busy, working Mom. A Pisces Moon may've had a sacrificial, sympathetic mom. Our Moon informs us how to meet our basic needs. As most mothers were women, the Moon conveys the way we relate with women in general and the type of female company we keep.

The organism itself accumulates layers of personal, collective and species memory impressed with every real life experience since conception; back through our personal history and further still to ancestral, or genetic, memory and further still to spiritual past-life reincarnational memory. The organism (Moon) records and embodies these interconnected memories as its deep internal bio-history. Conscious mind can never recall all of them yet sometimes we feel them in waves of unfathomable emotion. Everything we feel is not limited to our personal history. The Moon connects us to species memory especially under the influence of a transit or aspect from Uranus, Neptune or Pluto.



The solar, or patriarchal, social ethos we live in today is inherently Goddess-ignorant. This lopsided social ethic elevates the status of men over women, mind over matter, intellect over instinct. Our Moon also shows us how and where we can return to the Archetypal Feminine Goddess; Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Athena. For men, the Moon also symbolizes where and how he needs personal instruction from a woman for developing a truer relationship with the *anima*. When the Moon is neglected or denied, its emotional force turns into depression or despair, informing us that something important is missing from our lives.

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

basic needs; the familiar & comforting; Motherhood & early childhood imprints; how we satisfy needs; territoriality, ego-investment & defensiveness; dependency; happiness, addiction, depression

TWELVE HAPPY MOONS...

Brief notions of what makes your Moon smile...



ARIES

when spontaneously acting on impulses

TAURUS

when feeling stable and enjoying physical activities

GEMINI

when feeling flexible enough to change and keep options open

CANCER

when feeling emotions deeply enough to know true connections

LEO

happiest entertained and feeling like the center of attention

VIRGO

censors feelings for which are most useful; needs to feel useful

LIBRA

adapting feelings to meet the needs of significant others

SCORPIO

feeling enough thrilling intensity to spark the passions

SAGITTARIUS

when feeling enough freedom and space to stay in motion

CAPRICORN

when managing its emotions to support meaningful goals

AQUARIUS

when feeling detached enough to assure more interaction

PISCES

when inspired and when following the path of least resistance



MERCURY



Mercury's glyph has three parts: a T-cross supporting a circle and a crescent facing up on top of that. If these three were interpreted hierarchically, it might imply that a kind of receptivity expresses Mercury's highest function. I think this relates to the conceptual faculty for paying attention. This glyph resembles a human stick figure with horns &/or an antennae. The intellect that Mercury represents shares attributes with both a "horned devil" and the info-gathering antennae. Astrological Mercury symbolizes the evolution of conceptual mind; from its infantile stages of self-aggrandizement to its enlightenment.

The infantile intellect thinks it's God. It naturally identifies with its ideas, mistaking them for absolute realities rather than the symbols that represent realities; eats the menu, not the meal. Autonomous events such as silence, archetypal forces, other peoples views, or any experience of unity can threaten such an intellect to react with fear or hostility towards what it cannot understand. To maintain its illusory "creator" status, infantile intellect attempts to deny the existence of whatever it cannot classify and mentally control. We are *bedeviled* by this "monkey mind" until we learn enough observational skills to truly pay attention. As an intellect evolves and learns new ways to keep learning, its perception acts like an antennae to gather and translate incoming signals into meaningful messages.

Mercury symbolizes how and where (style and state) we learn to use our heads to make sense of things and communicate messages. Intellect's forte is to figure things out; how it goes about doing this is partially conveyed by Mercury's natal placement. Leo Mercury translates data like a story-teller. Mercury in Cancer, or the Home State, shows more emotional tenacity around its knowledge. Astronomically, Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. Look at your map to see its proximity to your own Sun: Mercury is always in the same sign as the Sun, the sign before it or the sign after it.

Robert Buchanan's Logosis Theory suggests that Mercury behind the Sun must work harder to update communication processes with the being; the mind is behind the being. There may be a time lapse between thought and spoken word, as if there was a delayed-reaction between thinking and talking. There may also be a preoccupation with memory and with ideas and words attached to the distant past; memory recall may be stronger than usual. With Mercury in the same style as the Sun, one tends to identify with one's ideas; especially in the conjunction. When what we know (Mercury) keeps getting confused with who we are (Sun), conceptual intelligence slows down and sometimes, ceases. This placement takes quick offense to having its ideas criticized; it experiences its very being condemned. Ouch. This conjunction can also express a skill for identifying concepts that are truly personal to itself. If Mercury is in the style after the Sun, the intellect races swiftly ahead to track possibilities; the mind gets ahead of the being. This intellect can show the futurist tendencies of precognition and prophecy, as well as a blatant disregard for status quo scholastic values and intellectual past traditions.

As a mythos, Mercury is the Messenger archetype. The Egyptian Thoth, the Greek Hermes, the American Pony Express...all share a common purpose of delivering messages from place to place and without becoming residential to any of them. Thoth was assigned as a "scribe to the gods" holding jurisdiction over the laws, public education and the healing arts. Hermes was a "guide to lost souls seeking rebirth" whom the gods granted neutral status for traversing freely between Hades' (Pluto) Underworld and Zeus' (or Jupiter) Upperworld. Wherever Mercury is placed in the birth chart points to where and how the "message of our story" begs to be told. In the Seventh State, we tell it to those we are intimate with. In the Tenth State, we learn to narrative the story of the world. In the Subconscious Twelfth State, we withdraw to tell our innermost secret messages. Mercury's placement refers to where and how we generally need to talk and speak forth.



As this develops, Mercury delivers our conversational style. In the Sixth State or in Virgo, we may employ a selective, utilitarian manner by talking only when we think it's useful or appropriate to do so. In Gemini, or the Third State, we may prefer work where speaking on the phone or relaying messages is an essential part of the job. In the Eleventh State, or Aquarius, we may seek out friends that are smarter than us to stimulate our own intelligence. When Mercury remains unintegrated, intellectual growth ceases; we stop thinking for ourselves. At this point, it may be more difficult to communicate and comprehend and/or convey logical processes.

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

*Logosis: how intellect gets behind, with & beyond the being;
where communication is necessary; thinking & speaking style;
the map-making intellect and its evolution;*



VENUS



When a cross supports a circle it represents an orientation supporting the ground of being. With Venus, a personal orientation is defined around our initial impressions of being accepted and loved *in a certain way*. On the personal level, we all need love but often times do not know the kind of love we need. Venus symbolizes personal *love*. Until Venus is integrated we tend to demand, from ourselves and others, the kind of unconditional love us mortals can only offer intermittently. Absolute unconditional love does exist but not as a constant in the personal realm. Unconditional love does exist more consistently in the absolute realm of transpersonal forces.

There are certain qualities that endear us to others, that may be based on *what we were loved for* by our parents, family and friends. This personal "endearment pattern" is illustrated by the state and style Venus embodies. Here are some examples of the tendencies: Venus in the First State learned to be loved for its charms and pretty appearance. A Ninth State Venus person may've been loved for his/her open sense of understanding. As this endearment pattern repeats itself over time, an *affinity bias* develops in the way we magnetize love in our lives and how we know *where the love is*. This affinity bias yields a direct knowledge of what is attractive and beautiful and, what is not; it defines beauty in a particular way. As this deepens, our likes and dislikes grow stronger; a *personal aesthetic* emerges to identify our tastes and unique sensibilities. In time, these evaluations can develop into the values of what we deem important. Traditional astrology has only two symbols to symbolize the Feminine: the Moon and Venus. In patriarchal societies, this roughly translates to the binary role most woman play: mother (Moon) and wife, or mistress (Venus). Numerous asteroids also symbolize and convey the greater Feminine complexity (see Further Research, JUNO: The Marriage Archetype Reconsidered; also, read *ASTEROID GODDESSES* by Demetra George).

interpersonal relationships. Venus' placement in our charts is how and where we know beauty in our lives. It also adds another clue to knowing our *relationship criteria*, how we attract conditions conducive to inviting intimacy with another (other criteria involve the Descendent, the 7th State, Mars, Moon, and wherever Libra governs). Venus in Aries is feisty and loves a good chase and conquest, just as Venus in Gemini chats and flirts before getting involved and then, chats and flirts some more. Venus in Libra is fond of courtship, romantic rituals and a shared sense of esthetics; it attracts partners perceived as equals. The placement of Venus represents how we interact and relate *from the heart*. It is how we attract relationships into our lives. Venus in Sagittarius seeks consciousness expansion and attracts partners exotic to oneself. Venus in Cancer needs enough emotional security to assure the possibility of dwelling with its mate. Venus shows us what kind of lover we are and can be, by virtue of what we promise another. Venus in Scorpio assures passion and total offering of itself; no wonder they get jealous. Who wouldn't feel possessive after giving all there was to give? Venus in Capricorn plays for keeps. It takes love seriously and always with one eye open for the advancement of personal goals. Venus in Aquarius wants to be best friends with its lovers and is drawn to shared social circles.

Venus represents a potent force, very much akin to the bio-spiritual current animating the vegetable kingdom. Pure love is spiritual. Our hearts are moved by spiritual forces, unlike Mars which is motivated by more ego-based, physical forces and desires. Together, Venus and Mars combine to create the spectrum of love yet it is Venus that is touched by an outside agent...the love from another. Nobody can make love happen; it lights and leaves. Like the symbol itself, Venus represents our personal experience of unity, of being connected to a larger whole. The transpersonal force of Neptune may express the higher octave, or overtone, of Venus. Our hearts are intimately related with the cosmos, in other words. The sign, or style, Venus is in harmonizes us with a particular band on the cosmic spectrum of love. When Venus is betrayed or neglected, we lose heart and alienate ourselves by forbidding intimacy, relationship and love.

Where the Heart (VENUS) Is



in ARIES

enthusiasm for beginnings and outgoing affection

in TAURUS

with loyalty to what is most consistently true

in GEMINI

with curiosity for the potential of love

in CANCER

sensitivity to nurturing and being nurtured

in LEO

with joyous anticipation of playful adoration

in VIRGO

honoring what is most pure and ideal

in LIBRA

showing romantic finesse and a refined aesthetic

in SCORPIO

excited by an all or nothing passion for surrender

in SAGITTARIUS

for the love of truth and adventure

in CAPRICORN

enthralled by the prospect of realizing its standards

in AQUARIUS

dazzled by the glamorous & the unpredictable

in PISCES

enchanted by the promise of unity/oneness

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

*personal love; early love imprints; affinity bias;
esthetics, and values; romantic style; relationship
criteria; how intimacy is attracted*



The original symbol for Mars was the circle supporting a cross on top (above left) which was later converted to the circle with an arrow (above right). Both symbols convey astrological meanings of the martial force. The original glyph signifies an orientation (cross) stemming from the ground of being (circle), whereas the later and now more common version represents the ground of being (circle) expressing a direction (arrow). Combined, they seem to say that Mars' orientation expresses a direction originating in the ground of being; from being to doing. The energetic intention of the Mars force is that of *activation*. This is the force responsible for the energy it takes to motivate action and represents the *driving force of our will to action*.

The expression of Mars can relay how your sexuality is activated; what tends to turn you on. Mars in Taurus enjoys the sensate touch of physicality. Mars in Libra is excited by charm and grace; Mars in Scorpio, passion and the promise of growth. Every force is capable of expressing the sexual current in some form but none as directly as Mars. Its assertive style signals an inherent *thrill criteria in a promise it knows it can keep*. Mars in Cancer betroths the emotional fulfillment of nurturing its lover's needs. Mars in Gemini offers the stimulation of versatile interests. A Capricorn Mars appeals to the thrill of being part of with organized action and significant deeds. Mars relates to the muscular system; the body needs to be felt deeply before Mars can be truly activate. All forms of physical activity and kinetic expression reinforce Mars, as does *making choices and following them through into action*.

Mythologically, Mars the god of war is portrayed in the *warrior and soldier archetype*. Natal Mars communicates our tendencies towards *conflict, aggression, and combat*. This is where we've had to fight to control territory or secure a place. Mars instills an assertive "kick" to those forces it aspects, natively and by transit, while sparking their unique attributes. Mars aspecting Uranus seeks freedom through action; Mars aspecting Saturn produces a pressure for physical discipline and responsible action.



Mars' placement infuses that territory with the potential of *will power*. A Fourth State Mars can do anything as long as it is personally engaged. Mars conjunct Ascendant expresses an assertive and even aggressive persona; *it is self-motivated*. A person with Mars in the Seventh State is attracted to mates it can do things with; it may depend on partners for motivation and will often do anything for its mate. A Tenth State Mars exercises will power from any action advancing its goals, position, and/or career. Pluto symbolizes the higher octave of Mars. If Mars represents the passion of physical intercourse then Pluto is the profound and hidden act of conception itself. Physical attraction can be compelled by strong subconscious, genetic resonances, as a deep wish to reproduce themselves through sexual coupling. Look to Mars to understand mating behavior, courtship rituals and the passion tactics necessary for sustaining sexual excitement. Two individuals with incompatible Mars' or weak aspects to Mars, may show less passion. A denied Mars lessens motivation, the will to act and overall physical and sexual vitality.

-----**BOTTOMLINE**-----

personal motivation (unless aspected by transpersonal forces); the sexual promise; thrill criteria; muscular system; physical needs; the will to act; Warrior archetype; aggression; integrates forces physically in aspect; mating behavior; what we fight for

IN THE ENGINE ROOM OF THE MARS FORCE

If the personal force of Mars motivates our actions, imagine the style of its expression as a type of engine, or motor...

in ARIES

A quick-starting reflex producing an immediate and forceful response to outside stimulus, this motor is also self-starting. These engines drive chain saws, military weapons and hardware, as well as helicopter rotors.

in TAURUS

A slow-starting, industrial-strength engine deriving its fuel from the concentration of physical sensation. After ignition, this engine yields a steady output of consistent and reputable current built for long term endurance.

in GEMINI

A miniature computerized motor with multiple moving parts, this unit can handle many small jobs simultaneously. It specializes in the storage and transference of data and comes with a built-in telephone, fax modem and e-mail.

in CANCER

This mechanical water pump works best in wells too deep to draw water from manually. Also ideal for cleaning domestic appliances such as fountains, faucets, washing machines, dishwashers and sinks; occasionally floods & clogs up.

in LEO

Beautiful design, this engine is known for its excellent performance standards and is custom-designed to fit any vehicle created for it. From toys to motorcycles, its high-octane fuel injection system commands the road with style.

in VIRGO

Built for optimum operational capacity, this functional yet sleekly streamlined motor can be seen in today's state-of-the-art power tools. Best suited for practical jobs requiring precision handling. Safety features always included.

in LIBRA

A unique bipolar engine this marvel of modern technology oscillates the current between itself and other engines. Its outstanding feature is its light-weight yet perfectly balanced chassis, making this unit ideal for smaller, private twin-engine aircraft.

in SCORPIO

This high-pressure plumbing workhorse can easily force sewage through difficult-to-reach clogged basement pipes and other underground draining systems. Its relentless driving force is fueled by high octane passion.

in SAGITTARIUS

A polished chrome, 8-cylinder sports car engine with more horsepower than its competition, this motor was designed for long-distance open road driving. Built for speed, this baby runs on rocket fuel; includes automatic pilot.

in CAPRICORN

These durable trolley engines are unsurpassed in their sheer power to manage high-stress conditions. Able to stay on track throughout a network of urban railways and still remain on schedule. Includes heavy-duty towing capacity.

in AQUARIUS

This multi-purpose, all-electrical motor is non-polluting and economical. Driving everything from computers to motorized wheelchairs, these engines are blueprinted with the future in mind. Note: occasionally short-circuits.

in PISCES

Unable to function on land, these ship engines require the support of large bodies of water. From sailing vessels to submarines, they come in variety of sizes and can be used wherever underwater currents determine the direction.



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The Expansive Force of Faith

JUPITER

The symbol for Jupiter combines *a crescent and a cross*, with the former extended out on the tip of the latter's horizontal plane. At its most basic level of design this infers a receptivity extending from the outer edge of an orientation. Jupiter: *an openness stemming from a particular bias, or vantage*. Wherever we find Jupiter, we find a point of view that comes to know truth *in a certain way*. By engaging activities innate to Jupiter's state and style, we expand consciousness of how we know truth *and* where we need more consciousness. As consciousness expands, we grow more aware of what we care about, what we know to be true and the beliefs, dogmas and biases that develop around that. Everyone has a bias; no one is dogma-free (note: the "dogma of no dogma" is still a dogma).

A Seventh State Jupiter needs to expand consciousness for meaningful relations; Jupiter in the Fifth State exalts its bias when playing or creating. The state Jupiter's in also serves as a vehicle for projecting our bias. A Seventh State Jupiter seeks a partner that believes in him/her; a cheerleader. A Fifth State Jupiter seeks meaning in what they create; self-expression and art as redemption.

Veruska Chromy's Past-Life Royalty Theory suggests how Jupiter's placement connotes where we've grown *accustomed to exaltation* from previous life experiences and, where we continue (naively) assuming the royal treatment, whether present-time circumstances merit it or not. Those who share our beliefs, expand our bias; those who don't, we can't seem to see or hear. Jupiter also conveys an opportunistic attitude for confirming what is already known. Maybe it's true that you can't tell anyone anything that they don't already believe. *Faith acts as an amplifying force to the Jupiter current*. Invest more faith in Jupiter's state and style and see what happens. First State Jupiter; show more faith in yourself. Second State Jupiter; show more faith in your resources. Third State Jupiter; show more faith in your ideas.



Good stage and film actors know that a strong belief in their character transmits credibility to the audience. *Timing is believability*; believe in yourself and your timing improves. The extent we invest our belief in natal Jupiter elicits the benevolence of good timing, good fortune and good luck. An Eleventh State Jupiter gets lucky by a restored faith in humanity; a Ninth State Jupiter picks up points by showing more faith in intuition. A Sixth State Jupiter increases your chances of good fortune when you believe in your work.

As we show more faith in Jupiter's area, a peculiar thing happens. An ethic develops; a social context deepens our lives by the way we treat others and how we expect to be treated. Jupiter makes a good symbol for the development of a certain kind of *conscience*. Our ethics are defined as much by what we don't care about, as they are by what we do; face one direction and you turn your back on another. Study the symbol for Jupiter; note how the receptive crescent points to one side only while ignoring the other. *When you realize what is truly worth caring about you can afford to not give a shit about what you don't care for.*

Jupiter and Faith

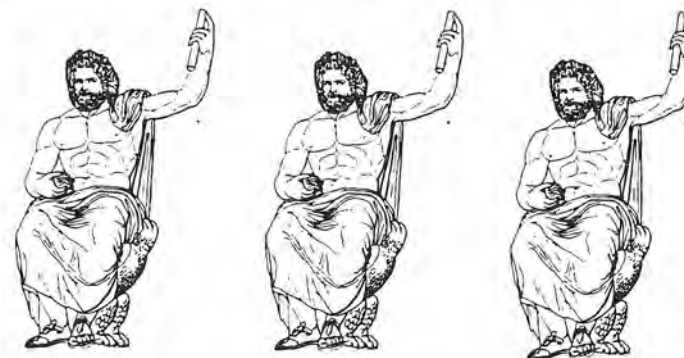
Jupiter moves in twelve year cycles (its orbit around the Sun). We are twelve years old at our first "Jupiter Return." Adolescence; a consciousness expanding rite of passage. Our second Jupiter Return arrives at twenty-four; the search for meaning in life. Around thirty-six years, we begin creating meaning and shaping our code of ethics. By forty-eight, our ethos is well-established; we reap the faith of whatever we've sown. The fifth and sixth Jupiter returns (at 60 & 72 years), marks two rites of passage for applying wisdom accrued towards our final years on Earth. All these Jupiter cycles invariably emerge in differing ways for each person; Jupiter's transit simply amplifies them.

The more faith we experience in a certain area, the more risks we tend to take there; we move on blind hunches and take intuitive leaps. An unclaimed, or ignored, Jupiter tends to act on our perception in a narrowing way as "tunnel vision"; we lose touch with the Big Picture and lose sight of the forest for the trees. When over-emphasized, every force shows its negative distortion of its more positive qualities. With Jupiter overkill, we are prone to exaggeration in whatever state and style it's in. When the Jupiter is inflated, we make too big a deal about our bias and forget that it's just another opinion. Our point of view bloats and balloons with larger-than-life status, as we bluster about like buffoons or spew fire & brimstone like wrathful fundamentalists (the inflamed Zeus). Or both, if we become so foolish...

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

*consciousness expansion; perspective, bias and beliefs;
assumed exaltation of royal treatment; area showing lack of
conscience; development of code of ethics; what is amplified
with faith; good timing and luck; 12-year cycles;
exaggerates when over-emphasized*

MESSAGES FROM JUPITER



How Jupiter expands consciousness in all 12 States

- 1) *Belief in yourself expands your direct experience of life*
- 2) *Faith in your own resources expands your sense of worth*
- 3) *Talking about your ideas expands their meaning for you*
- 4) *You make a big deal of personal needs to experience them*
- 5) *You stay open-minded as long as you're having fun*
- 6) *You expand your sense of usefulness
by doing work you believe in*
- 7) *You may need a morally uplifting partner -- a cheerleader --
to expand your awareness of the other*
- 8) *To evolve, show more faith in your instinctive processes*
- 9) *You need to teach what you know to know what you know*
- 10) *People expect a lot from you so show faith in your goals*
- 11) *Find good friends to restore your lost faith in humanity*
- 12) *Faith in unknowns illuminates a holy guardian angel*

The Persistent Force of Commitment **SATURN**

Saturn's symbol is a crescent below a cross, signifying a personal receptivity to a particular orientation. The cross is over the crescent, implying that this orientation stems from and/or is rooted in personal experience. The glyph looks like an anchor or a cross with a hook. An understanding of Saturn is critical for manifestation. Psychologically, Saturn symbolizes the adult function of personality; what precisely we are accountable for. It shows us how and where (style & state) we can manifest a life through the cross -- *reality structures* -- we're here to bear. It is rarely fun; it is always work. Saturn is where and how *persistence of commitment* must be applied to fulfill our true responsibilities and realize our most meaningful goals.

Saturn represents an area that stays undeveloped as long as we show little or no accountability for ourselves. The first thirty years or so of our lives many of us remain as children, psychologically speaking. We still seek approval from parental figures or, play grown-up by replicating adult roles; start a business or get married. Emotionally, many of us remain immature into our thirties and forties. In an attempt to force maturity, many parents assign children responsibilities but externally appointed tasks often fail to meet each child's unique accountability criteria; our area of *true response-ability* where we can develop a *meaningful* ability to respond. When Saturn is integrated, we produce tangible results and, *it is always specific to who we are*. Saturn is the most psychologically complex of the personal forces and can remain in an *infantile* stage whenever we're too busy *feeling* (Moon), *projecting ourselves* (Sun), *talking* (Mercury), *relating* (Venus) *acting out* (Mars), or *expanding our minds* (Jupiter) to bear up to our shortcomings and do something about it. It can be humiliating to face the personal failures resulting from ongoing self-denial. When not encountered, they remain sore spots often exposed by others. Like a baby's cry in the dead of night, Saturn's signal transmits an unending hunger and a genuine dread around facing the consequences of our procrastination.

This initiates the next stage of saturnine maturation, *shadow work*; the grown-up choice to expose and face our repressions and the consequences of infantile self-denial. To the extent repressions are not identified, accepted and claimed is the degree they're projected outwardly onto others who, by default, are forced to portray Saturn for us; *what we resist shows up as our fate*. Avoid authority and draw authority figures into your life to rebel against. Resist intimacy and attract lovers that demand it from you. Evade your security needs and become subconsciously insecure from a lack of stability. Saturn sez: *you can run but you can't hide*.

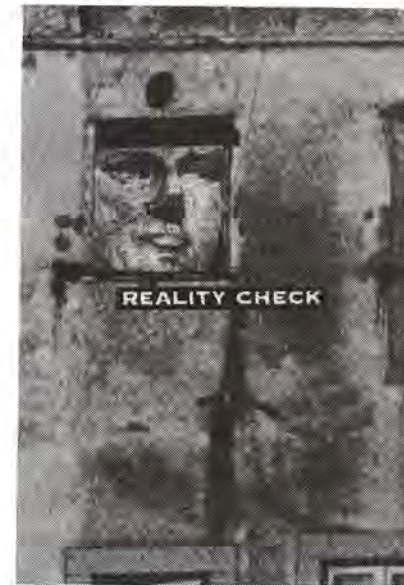
In the major arcana of the Tarot, the 15th and 21st cards relate to Saturn; *The Devil and The World*. Bypassing Christian devil concepts, take a good look at what truly bedevils you: your flaws, frailties, inconsistencies, the folly of mistaking any one part of yourself for the whole. When we identify only with the wonderful, smart aspects of our totality, we subconsciously attract more darkness and ignorance. Look where Saturn dwells and behold: your most *personal devil*. What you must first face and befriend before allowed entry to the worldly material plane of manifestation; the age-old story of how the devil runs the world. By integrating Saturn, you can release those childish bogeyman fears while carving a niche for yourself in this world. *You can finally become accountable for yourself*.

At 29 years, Saturn returns by transit to its original natal position for the first time initiating a rite of passage called The Saturn Return; a time fraught with the pressures of *failure and/or success*, depending on how *responsible* we have been to natal Saturn. This passage marks a time period (approx. a year) for writing your own reality checks; *reality checks never bounce*. Your reality structures (in the state Saturn resides in) are tested for their integrity. When they crack and break down, you experience failure. When they persist, success! A greater success comes after rebuilding what has broken down to act in accord with more reality. The greatest success is earned through the *persistent force of commitment* in Saturn's area of your life when you learn that failure is another word for experience. When you can learn from your experience, *you pave a path of mastery*.

There can be something fundamentally terrifying about facing our most basic level of existence, of the life we have created for ourselves in real time and space. This is especially so wherever we have been resisting and continue to resist reality. Once the infantile and shadow aspects of Saturn are integrated, we're more prepared to confront the particular terror our existence hangs on. Remember the cross with the hook? Saturn in the First State knows the terror of existing and the fear of becoming a non-entity. Saturn in the Sixth trembles in the horror of uselessness, of not finding meaningful work. Saturn in the Fourth State feels like an orphan without a home or family to belong to. Saturn in the Twelfth panics under the absence of sanctuary. Saturn's placement tells us where there are *no* prefabricated or ready-made realities to rely on; *wait for it to happen and it seems like you wait forever.*

Natal Saturn shows us where and how we are seriously lacking in something, as if the gods ran out of a certain material when we were made. Saturn haunts us with doubts about the legitimacy of existence and what we must supply with our own efforts to substantiate our lives. Saturn symbolizes where (its state) you are responsible for structuring your experience. By choosing not to resist existence, we learn to bear up to and live with our toughest truths. In this way, Saturn offers its greatest gift: *the power for turning your fears into commitments.*

If Saturn indeed inhabits that state expressing our true responsibilities, that specific knowledge can liberate us to become more effective. As we direct the force of our commitment through Saturn's style and state, we are eventually rewarded with a competent, manifesting power of authority; not only in that area but in all levels of material existence. *Saturn, Lord of Karma.* This does not mean that your fears will go away; they won't. Avoid your Saturnine responsibilities long enough and they'll return to pressure you back to work, again. *Anxiety gets your goat.* Look at fear as an *anxiety signal* stemming from a lack of attention and development in the specific area needing your commitment to sustain itself; that's Saturn. By growing more accountable for the force of your anxiety, you also become your own psychotherapist; *be your own dad.*



As Saturn symbolizes our need to structure reality, it also refers us to the father figure who shaped us with his/her rules and regulations. In addition to paternal conditioning, Saturn reflects authority issues. Those with an unintegrated or denied Saturn tend to unconsciously seek out teachers, gurus, older friends and lovers to guide them through the terrain of the unintegrated Saturn state. Over many years of applied understanding, this individual not only learns to shape reality in this area but also starts embodying authority there. Once integrated, Saturn aspects instill a sobering influence of stamina and endurance. Many lasting marriages share mutual Saturn contacts. Success in saturnine relationships depend on an investment of time and effort. A denied Saturn produces a drifting, anchorless quality in the life, bereft of long-term goals and focus.

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

fears & commitments; true response-ability; shortcomings, defects & infantile self-denial; the shadow or devil archetype; the anchor & the cross we bear; the adult function; where effort & hard work required to succeed; anxiety as signal of self-neglect; authority issues; long-term stamina

The Trinary Cycle of Saturn

The three phases of *fear, duty and mastery* mark turning points in the development of the adult personality, known astrologically as Saturn. By facing the *fear*, specific knowledge is revealed to support the kind of *duty* required to take full responsibility for our lack of development in that area. With *persistence of commitment*, our duty can establish for us enough command to manifest increasing degrees of *mastery*. Failure to face our fears or realize our duty creates its own failure, ie., the negative emotion associated with resisting the existence of our true responsibilities (AKA guilt).

1) state of being

FEAR of existing; of not being enough; self-doubt

DUTY: self-commitment; rebuilding ego & persona

MASTERY: shapeshifting; continual ego reconstruction

2) state of security

FEAR that nothing lasts; doubting worth; no security

DUTY: commitment to rebuilding & economic base

MASTERY: establishment of personal values & self-worth

3) state of mind

FEAR of not being smart enough; doubting ideas & words

DUTY: intellectual discipline; self-education

MASTERY: conceptual competency and strong communication skills

4) home state

FEAR of emotional attachment; doubts home or family

DUTY: commits to meaningful bonds; builds own home

MASTERY: manifestation of sustenance and home base

5) creative state

FEAR of not being loved as child; doubting lovability

DUTY: artistic discipline; being loved through one's art

MASTERY: achieving high status for creative work

SATURN, cont.

6) state of service

FEAR of work; skeptical of one's real usefulness to others

DUTY: commit to apprenticeship; develop tools & skills

MASTERY: success with self-employment in the village

7) state of intimacy

FEAR of intimacy, vulnerability & inability to love another

DUTY: structuring rules & boundaries to sustain intimacy

MASTERY: manifesting a stable, lasting relationship

8) state of surrender

FEAR of change, death &/or sex; doubting instinct

DUTY: ritualizing one's changes; commitment to growth

MASTERY: adepthood achieved around transformation

9) state of faith

FEAR of nothing to believe in; "Doubting Thomas"; skeptic

DUTY: building own beliefs based on one's singular views

MASTERY: teaching or imparting counsel of authority

10) state of reputation

FEAR of being a nobody in the world; questioning fame

DUTY: commitment to projecting one's authority publicly

MASTERY: a successful niche in the professional world

11) community state

FEAR of people, of not fitting in; doubts value of the social

DUTY: structuring group activity; building social forms

MASTERY: community builder with lasting friendships

12) subconscious state

FEAR of the world at large; doubting the nature of reality

DUTY: commit to satisfying needs for solace & solitude

MASTERY: manifesting a sanctuary to take refuge in

THE TRANSPERSONAL FORCES

Initiation as Creative Response to Shock

When compared with the more familiar personal forces, the transpersonal forces (symbolized by Chiron, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto) signify what is genuinely weird, extra-terrestrial and alien. For the most part, transpersonal forces can never be completely subject to personal control and/or comprehension. We are shown their effects by the way our lives are influenced by them, as if from above and beyond ourselves. The transpersonal can, however, be grasped by *intuition* (Uranus), *merged with* (Neptune) and *surrendered to* (Pluto). The transpersonal realm is not subject to comparative analysis (Mercury) nor does it cater to personal likes and dislikes (Venus); its forces function independently of our will power (Mars), ego (Sun) and are utterly beyond belief (Jupiter) and more real than our reality structures (Saturn). Transpersonal means: *beyond, yet also inclusive of, the personal*.

The overall intention of all transpersonal forces is the administration of shock. With the exception of Chiron, the transpersonal forces deliver three distinct shocks: *sudden, diffusive* and *deep*; corresponding to Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, respectively. The primary effect of shock is to instill a *discontinuity* to the ego. It does so by temporarily disconnecting us from familiar routines and self-images that maintain our reality structures. We all react in different ways to shock. The process of *responding to shock* is what I call *initiation*; the shock itself, no matter how dramatic, is not the real initiation. How you respond to the initial shock is your initiation because that is what shapes your fate. It's not what happens to you that's so damn important but where you go with it afterwards and, for the rest of your life. In this context, real life shocks can be consciously worked with as *initiatic events*. By participating in our own initiation, we become initiates; as we are catalyzed, so do we become catalysts. Those of us who have absorbed and assimilated enough shock to begin transmitting it have begun realizing the immense responsibility (Saturn) innate to initiating others in the out-there world.



Aspects of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto can be integrated into our personalities by the way we choose to serve as mediums for their transpersonal causes: *liberation* (Uranus), *compassion* (Neptune) and *soul empowerment* (Pluto). Uranus, Neptune and Pluto also signify objective states of consciousness within us, albeit, in a more or less latent or sleeping form; consider the shock of freedom (Uranus), the shock of unity (Neptune) and shock of death/rebirth. Confronting these forces are rarely comfortable but always informative and sometimes, creative. Yet, creative response to shock isn't always an option, especially when our personalities have been weakened and overwhelmed by our own unintegrated, negated, and under-developed personal forces. Such an ego copes poorly with unexpected real life shocks by turning defensive, overly reactive, paranoid and even fragile to the point of psychosis. How inconvenient...

Unequivocal self-acceptance supports the integration of the personal forces that cohere as a personality. Without the soulwork of ongoing ego development (not mere ego-building), there is not much chance for seeing or living beyond the reality tunnel of ego and certainly not much in the way of spiritual potential. The true function of the ego personality lies in its context to the larger whole. Its true purpose is revealed in the act of total offering of the self to the gods. And, in astrology, these gods are called Chiron, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.



The Subversive Force of

CHIRON



The symbol for Chiron connects an oval to a quincunx glyph and signifies service and surrender (quincunx) to a deviation of wholeness (an oval; not a circle). This symbol, that looks like a skeleton key, unlocks the gate between personal and transpersonal realms. In outer space, comet Chiron orbits betwixt the trajectories of Saturn and Uranus. Psychologically, Chiron acts as a kind of interface between the responsible adult personality (Saturn) and our innate human autonomy (Uranus). The subversive force of Chiron remains latent, or acts out unconsciously, until Saturnine adulthood *and* Uranian sovereignty have been integrated. *Are you liberal enough to be conservative? Responsible enough to be free?* These are Chirotic questions testing the degree of real autonomy (Uranus) built into your reality structures (Saturn).

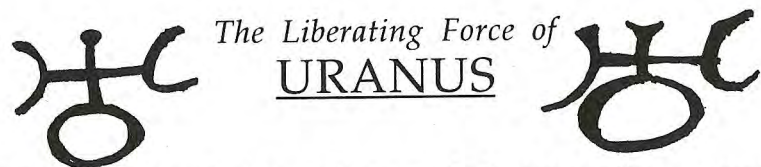
Chiron destabilizes structures and rearranges them towards higher frequencies. Natal Chiron acts as a kind of conduit of a trinary circuit engaging the electrical lightbody (Uranus) and the skeletal earthbody (Saturn). *Chiropractics* dramatize a Chirotic interface between nervous and skeletal systems by its focus on the spinal column. The spinal column also acts as a sheath for the sleeping kundalini serpent energies coiled in the coccyx and released upward into the brain on awakening. Kundalini yoga demands discipline (Saturn) and intuition (Uranus) for self-transformation. Tantra, a form of Chirotic sex, engages a post-survival sexuality, bypassing the usual security needs and procreation agenda in lieu of ecstatic union with the divine. In context to status quo procreational sex, Tantra acts as a *subversive force* of recreational sexuality. Chiron symbolizes *kundalini energies* and *subversive sexualities*, especially by transit.

As an archetypal character, Chiron is very much The Sarcastic Trickster or Satirist (from satyr). Natal Chiron refers to the state we are compelled to subvert a particular status quo definition of reality by either creating a subversion (of its "consensual reality" version) or by unconsciously raging against it; *subvert or be subverted*. I think if we are not acting as a subversive force to the status quo in this area (the state Chiron resides in) then, a kind of self-sabotaging mechanism for undermining our intentions is activated. *Subvert or be subverted*. If you refuse to align yourself with the Chirotic force of mischief, Chiron can sabotage your efforts in its state. A 10th state Chiron undermines attempts to fulfill socially-accepted status goals for public recognition until the notion of status is rearranged (redefined) according to a wilder, more autonomous vision of what makes us important to the world. A 4th State Chiron acts a subversive force to status quo family values by throwing wild parties for reinventing the tribal mind.

Acting as a subversive force to any status quo reality sparks anarchy and chaos (THE SEX PISTOLS punk rock band made their impact the year Chiron was discovered; see Further Research, CHIRON: Creative Destruction) Chiron symbolizes a kind of wild streak acting out a glee for rearranging reality as most people know it (AKA consensus reality) into something wilder. Natal Chiron Chiron in the 9th State resists traditional dogmas until positing its own wilder views. Chiron in the 7th State destabilizes marital conventions until coming up with its own. My own natal Third State Chiron demonstrates how I tend to subvert words and their consensual meanings into something wilder; I can't help it. *Honest*.

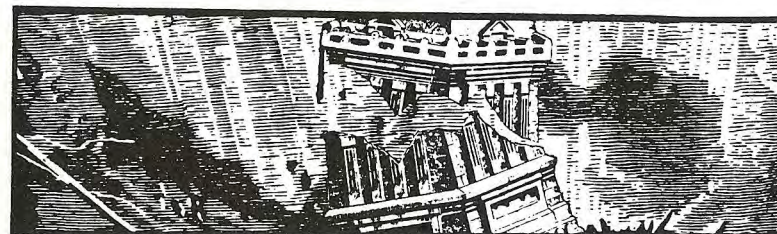
-----BOTTOMLINE-----

*kundalini & tantra; force of subversion to status quo realities;
The Satirist/Trickster archetype*



This symbolic design utilizes a circle supporting a cross with two crescents facing outwards on each end of its horizontal axis. The orientation (cross) is rooted in the ground of being (the circle) while receiving (crescents) from two directions at once. Mercury's antennae faces one direction only, receiving data from above. Uranus's antennae processes data as a kind of omnidirectional radar. Uranus can be considered a higher octave of Mercury; the highest level intellect can attune to. What Mercury analyzes, Uranus knows instantaneously by *direct resonance*; not a "figuring out" but through an open-ended, intuitive engagement with resonances.

Uranus symbolizes what I call *innate autonomy*. Its natal placement doesn't refer to how free "we feel" or "think we are" or "believe we should be" but where we are actually free, *whether we know it or not*. This innate autonomy tends to act out as a *reflex of rebellion* until natal Uranus is consciously integrated. When autonomy is finally earned through realizing the cause of liberation, there is nothing to rebel against; *we are already free*. Until then, we tend to rebel against externally-imposed restrictions to the state of natal Uranus. An unconscious Uranus acts like a rebel *without a cause*. 1st State Uranus rebels by unpredictable behavior. 10th State Uranus rebels against status quo approval by not compromising its goals. 9th State Uranus rebels by fighting externally imposed dogmas. Uranus can also express a genius or brilliance in its area, as well as, becoming a tyrannical law unto itself. The Uranian force mimics *electricity*: *unpredictable, sudden, & intermittent*. Moving at the speed of light, Uranus quickens activities in its state and the processes of whatever it aspects. As we integrate Uranus, we grow autonomous enough to encourage the autonomy of others. Uranus also gives an audacity for *disconnecting* from anything impeding autonomy. This self-detaching ability creates *discontinuity* to shake loose from ties that bind; whether self-imposed, social, political or economic.



Uranian energies can be destructive when repressed, ignored or forbidden. Uranus plays havoc wherever its autonomy cannot find a direct outlet, ie., the state Uranus is in. The overall intent of Uranus is to liberate whatever it touches by sometimes rattling the socially conditioned cages imposed therein. Natal Uranus also acts like an antennae for absorbing and transmitting signals from the collective, as if we've been assigned experimental research tasks for connecting us with larger collective awakenings. Uranus will not be controlled or conjured up by ego yet if we awaken to our autonomy and the freedom of others, we can cultivate the climate for its integration.

Uranus initiates ego-consciousness to the **light body**, of which the Central Nervous System is sheath and vehicle. When Uranus conjuncts any of the personal forces, natively or by transit, it accelerates the integration of that force. Uranus conjunct Moon quickens emotions; Uranus conjunct Mars speeds up physical coordination. Conjunct Jupiter, visionary tendencies jump start. A neglected, or inactive, Uranus acts out as an overall compulsive rebellion in an attempt to compensate for the lack of actual, realized autonomy.

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

electrical: sudden, intermittent & unpredictable; audacity; rebels against imposed restrictions; discontinuity & detachment; collective antennae; Muse; where total freedom is required

Uranus Through the 20th Century



1900-Dec. 1904, Sagittarius: Quantum Mechanics, Freud's Psychoanalysis, Wright Brothers' Kittyhawk flight

1905-Jan. 1912, Capricorn: SF Earthquake, Free Speech Movement, Abstract Art (Picasso), Plastics, NAACP,

Feb. 1912-Jan. 1920, Aquarius: Panama Canal, World War I, Russian Revolution, European maps redrawn

Feb. 1920-Jan. 1928, Pisces: USA Isolationism, Surrealism, Jazz, League of Nations, Lindbergh's Transatlantic Flight

Feb. 1928-Mar. 1935, Aries: Wall St. Crash, The Great Depression, China Re-unified, Nazi Germany born

April 1935-May 1942, Taurus: Spanish Civil War, WW II, LSD discovery, Atomic Research, Penicillin, Social Security

June 1942-June 1949, Gemini: First Computer & Transistor, United Nations, Supersonic Flight, A-Bomb, CIA, Television

July 1949-May 1956, Cancer: Baby-boomers, The Pill, DNA discovery, USA Economic Boom, McCarthyism Scapegoating

June 1956-Aug. 1962, Leo: Rock'n'Roll, Beat Poets, NASA, JFK, Berlin Wall, Sputnik, First Manned Space Flight

Sept. 1962-May 1969, Virgo: Viet Nam War, Hippies, Mao's Revolution, Green Peace, The Beatles, MLK assassinated

June 1969-Aug. 1975, Libra: First Moon Walk, Woodstock, First Microprocessor, Roe vs. Wade, US troops leave Viet Nam

Sept. 1975-Nov. 1981, Scorpio: Anarchistic Punk Movement, First Microcomputer, Viking Mars Probe, Mt. St. Helens erupts

Dec. 1981-Nov. 1988, Sagittarius: New Ageism, Christian Right Resurgence, Voyager photos of Uranus, Home computers

Dec. 1988-Jan. 1996, Capricorn: Record Draughts, Persian Gulf Oil War, Collapse of Berlin Wall & Communism, Internet

Jan. 12, 1996-2003, Aquarius: Massive internet expansion, Genetic Engineering, Weather anomalies, Global Terrorism



The symbol for Neptune is made up of a cross with a crescent suspended on its vertical axis halfway between the cross's center and the top. This unusual glyph refers to an orientation (cross) supporting a receptivity (crescent) to itself *and beyond*. It is the only astrological symbol where the crescent overlaps, or merges, with the cross. As one of the three transpersonal planetary forces, Neptune represents states beyond ego control and comprehension. Like the design of its symbol, Neptune reveals where our lives overlap and merge with everything else. To Neptune, individual ego is a joke, an illusion at best. In its wake, its where and how we're exposed to the illusory status of reality as we know it (AKA consensus reality).

Natal Neptune's symbolizes *multiple levels of dreaming*. Initially, this means our highest hopes and dreams; where we wax idealistic. Neptune in the Eleventh State dreams of social utopia; Neptune in the Third State idealizes the mind. Neptune can confuse dreams with worldly reality; an Eleventh State Neptune lives as if a utopia really exists somewhere as much as a Third State Neptune lives as if heaven really is in the mind. Wherever Neptune resides is where we tend to be out of touch with the hardlined, consensus reality Saturn represents and where we tend to experience our *highest expectations*. Neptune shows our area of *greatest oblivion*. Some dreams and ideals can be realized while others cannot. When Saturnine realities distort our ideals, we experience *disillusionment*. This doesn't mean these broken ideals are invalid; they're just unattainable in the realm of time and space. The longer we live in this world, the more we discover two types of dreaming. 1) Dreams as success stories, ie., fulfilling a lifelong dream. 2) Dreams that don't or cannot come true yet remain important to us anyway. The first kind of dreaming requires enough support and real time experimentation to determine what can be accomplished; it is practical. The second dreaming is impractical on the earth plane but may serve an immaterial purpose as a kind of psychic solace to the troubled soul; *daydreaming can be good for your mental health*.

Each kind of dreaming produces its own effects when over-emphasized. Fulfillment on the earth plane can accrue wealth, power and knowledge; success in the world of manifestation. When overdone and overstuffed, we lose touch with our more immaterial potential state (the other kind of dreaming) and are entrenched in the grips of excessive materiality. *We sell out and lose our soul.* When the impractical, non-goal oriented dreaming is over-emphasized, we drift rootless without an anchor or apparent definition. It's difficult to get things done or maintain credibility with others; we remain unconvinced of the value of worldly efforts.

Neptune exudes an other-worldly, spaced-out quality to whatever it touches. When natal Neptune aspects personal areas or forces -- in particular the ASC, Sun, Mercury and Moon -- alcoholism (a Neptunian solvent) can be indicated. Alcoholism may be inspired by an unfulfilled soul need for dissolution of ego into spirit; *a misguided spiritual need for mystical union.* The alcoholic just takes the "spirit" in its most literal form and slowly dissolves the liver, instead of the ego. Natal Neptune is our contact point with potentiality, that intimacy with void allowing us the anonymity of being nothing. As a state of consciousness, dream lies somewhere in the twilight zone between sleep and awake. As a spiritual state, dream symbolizes a waking trance state that most of us inhabit daily. Through Neptune's placement, we can discover where the work of "dreaming to become awake" can take place. In the Seventh State, we struggle to awaken to intimacy, relationship and marriage. In the Sixth State, we wake up to the kind of work that doubles as a mission for higher causes. Aboriginal spirituality holds a sacred relationship with "the dreamtime", a vast realm for out-of-body soul travel and long-distance telepathy. The dreaming force of Neptune also acts as gateway to the omnidirectional dreamtime through *the dreambody*. At night, we sleep. and sometimes dream of a dream ego going through adventures in a dreamland. Imagine this. Upon awakening the morning, your dream ego has gone to sleep and to dream your daytime ego into being. When we think we are awake, we are being dreamed. We are dreaming or being dreamed and, quite easily both; Neptunian humor...



Neptune also represents our particular kind of mysticism, the way we commune with the cosmos. The state Neptune inhabits often lacks boundary awareness due to its penchant for continually dissolving arbitrary borders and revealing life's all-encompassing unity. Awareness of this depends on the extent ego is deluded into believing it's separate from everything. Neptune's placement also tends to depict where we dissolve ego and disappear, or merge into the functions and activities of that state. An absence or neglect of Neptune can show as a lack of intuition, imagination and faith in unknowns.

-----**BOTTOMLINE**-----

the work of awakening from dream; the dreambody and dreamtime; mysticism; two kinds of dreaming; our highest ideals and expectations; disillusionment; area of oblivion



Two symbols are commonly used for Pluto: the upper case "P" (see above left) and the design of the cross, the crescent and the suspended circle (see above right). The latter symbol speaks more directly to me of Pluto's inherent meaning and is the only astrological glyph where the circle hovers disconnected from the rest of the symbol. Pluto symbolizes an orientation (cross) supporting a vertical receptivity (upward facing crescent) to a higher being (the circle above). As a transpersonal force, Pluto's delivers a kind of deep shock. Like a massive earthquake, it emerges mysteriously from the depths of being (the earth's center) releasing a transformative force that irrevocably alters surface structures (the previously flat ground rolls like waves). Pluto's influence works from inside the nucleus of whatever it touches (by transit and natively) and then, moves outward from the center to the periphery.

This initiatic pattern often shows itself through heroic, and sometimes tragic, journeys to perilous regions where some form of death is confronted and usually followed by a psychic rebirth process. "Initiation", as defined here, refers to how we *respond* to the shock of death. Death itself is not the initiation per se but *the response to it*. The state Pluto resides in conveys a unique initiatic disposition. A ninth State Pluto responds philosophically to shock, just as a Sixth State Pluto needs to make the shock work, or function, somehow. A Third State Pluto translates shock through the development of meaning for new concepts and ideas. A First State Pluto responds to shock through a process of Self-initiation, as a 7th State Pluto may integrate its shocks by becoming a catalyst for the initiations of another.

Pluto governs all processes of death and rebirth; its natal placement points to where the greatest change usually takes place in our lifetime. Pluto represents the crisis in consciousness that precedes a transformation of consciousness. The nature of these dilemmas may determine the kinds of shocks we attract to ourselves as part of the human initiations the soul requires to embody itself. From the soul's perspective, *we are not human beings having spiritual experiences but spiritual beings becoming more fully human*. Jeffrey Wolf Green's groundbreaking book, PLUTO: Evolutionary Journey of the Soul, symbolizes Pluto as the soul's intent throughout each of the twelve states (houses) and styles (or signs). Green's Soul Intent theory, as I understand it, posits an originating reincarnational impulse of a soul that knows what it needs to fulfill its next stage of evolution in the human form. As such, Pluto refers to an area (the state) branded by deep hunger for and obsession with a certain kind of human experience the soul needs to become more fully human.

The Soul Intent has little to do with our thoughts, beliefs or feelings about it nor is it concerned with our likes, dislikes or the opinions of others about it. Neither our upbringing nor ancestral past contains much information about it (with the exception of Fourth State Plutos). For that, we must look to natal Pluto to decode the human activities generating the type of substance for feeding the soul and encouraging soulful manifestation. A First State Pluto thirsts for the high novelty of constant self-discovery. A Second State Pluto obsesses on establishing its value to prove its stamina as a human survivor. A Fifth State Pluto craves total immersion in creative states to appease its ravenous talents. A Ninth State Pluto outgrows its own beliefs by the burning obsession for truth at all costs. As Pluto governs processes of death and rebirth, as well as destruction and creation, the soul can suffer profoundly when Pluto's powerful transformative force enters overkill mode. We can suffer a kind of cosmic burn-out in that state when ego is consumed by phobias, obsessions and out-of-control power trips. Someone with a natal 7th State Pluto, for example, can totally obsess on another as if that person were their one and only soul mate.

A 1st State Pluto can turn self-discovery into self-obsession. An over-emphasized 11th State Pluto looks like social control and the tyrannical urge to rule the world. Plutonic obsession, no matter how seemingly destructive, is symptomatic of two kinds of spiritual awakening: the soul awakens to the impermanence and fragility of the personality it has overwhelmed and, the ego finds direct, intuitive contact with a power greater than itself. Soul as a teacher to ego and ego as a teacher to Soul. On the other end of the plutonic spectrum, when natal Pluto is ignored and unintegrated we experience a deep discontent in its state that no power substitute (sex, food, drugs or money) can satisfy; *the soul's needs go unmet and we wither inside.*

Natal Pluto also refers to the state we can enter for rejuvenating our overall energy; *soul-embodiment also means self-empowerment.* The bright side of obsession is that *it's where all the energy is.* It's where we come into direct, intuitive neural engagement with life energies. Pluto's powers of renewal avail themselves as we come to realize our mortality. To the extent our impermanence is *realized* (and not merely understood as a concept), we participate at deeper levels of synchronicity; of synchronizing with our core being. Our overall timing improves with more sensitivity to the inevitable facts of our impending death, transformation and rebirth in whatever forms they are taking right where you are sitting now.

The transformative force of Pluto works by exciting *exposure, extraction and growth* in an area with a history of inertia and stagnation, and/or obsolete habit patterns that drain vitality. Pluto transforms whatever it touches (by transit and natively) by exposing, and then releasing, what has died; dead feelings, dead ideas, dead beliefs, dead habits, dead love, dead jobs, dead dads and dead moms. Everything that lives, dies. The overall intent of Pluto is to *expose our attachment to whatever is undergoing decay* and to force us to face the devitalizing (draining) effect that fixation has on us. Once exposed, we have the choice to continue holding on (and continue suffering) or the choice to let go. After the letting go, there is a space created for new growth. There can be no new growth before letting go of the old, dying and/or dead.

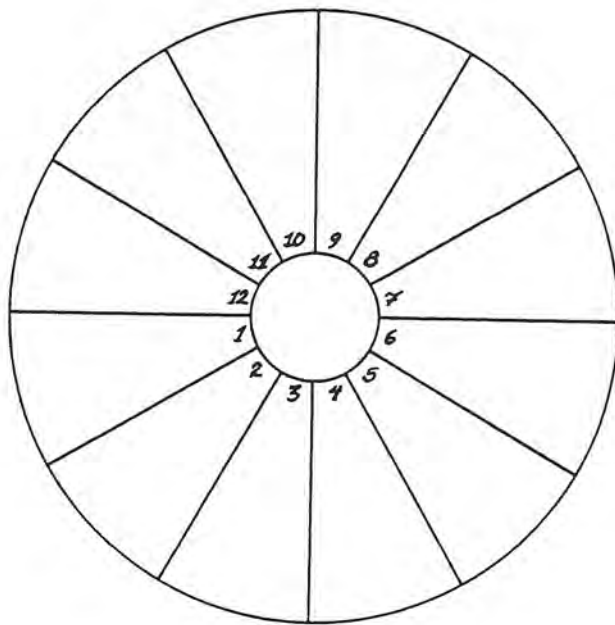


Another name for the potency of Pluto is DNA. Working from within the cell's nucleus, DNA/Pluto regulates everything from preliminary conditions for conception, gestation and birth to unfolding the biological blueprint connecting all living things. The genetic intelligence of DNA is propelled by a deep evolutionary imperative: to fulfill the immortalist goal of living forever (even if it must mutate its own life forms to do it). When German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche suggested that sexuality is at the root of all spirituality, he may have been talking about Pluto. Forgoing imposed moral and socio-religious considerations about sex, the Plutonic force also exposes the underlying currents of raw sexual power. Plutonic sex burns from deep within the realm of concept-free sexuality. We do not "have" plutonic sex; *it has us.* A 12th State Pluto knows sexuality through dissolving ego boundaries towards cosmic unity. A 9th State Pluto knows sexuality through an expanding perception of the forces governing existence; this rejuvenates perspective. Pluto can also refer to the transformation, sublimation and spiritualization of sexual energies. A strongly aspected Pluto can symbolize a wild oscillation between extremes of outright sexual debauch and celibacy. On a spiritual level, natal Pluto may show where healing is necessary to soul-embodiment; where past-life karmic dross is burning away to make room for present-time soul intent. A 6th State Pluto may've known slavery in previous lives and is working to refine these harsh rituals into a more dignified form of service.

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

death/rebirth; area of greatest change; Soul Intent; obsession; powers of rejuvenation; transforms by exposure & elimination of decay; intelligence of DNA; loss of soul when negated

The First House STATE OF BEING



We tend to embody forces in this state and act them out in our behavior. The more our state of being is expressed, the more we convey an overall "look"; *our personal style*. How we know and experience ourselves as individuals is also expressed by what we are identified with and identified by. Forces here animate specific ego tendencies that characterize the kind of individual you are becoming. The First State of Being expresses what we tend to personify. Whatever you are being, you are sometimes the last to see.

I am CHARACTERIZED by my state of being

SUN; *what you see is what you get; I am who I am.*

MOON; *I am my emotions; I feel therefore I am.*

MERCURY; *an intellectual; I identify with my ideas*

VENUS; *I am beautiful; embodies its own unique aesthetics*

MARS; *I am driven; a self-motivated, forceful personality*

JUPITER; *expands self through personal experience*

SATURN; *initial fear of self until ready to build personality*

CHIRON; *a mischievous person; a subversive personality*

URANUS; *Thou shalt not tell me how to behave.*

NEPTUNE; *Thou shalt not pigeonhole or define me*

PLUTO; *Thou shalt not change or destroy me.*

When any force conjuncts the Ascendant, that person tends to embody that archetype. The Ascendant symbolizes a present-time gateway to the realm of the senses and signifies a kinetic signature, a unique style of physically moving through space. When over-emphasizing our state of being, we become full of ourselves and lose the receptivity necessary for intimacy with another.

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

what is personified; what activates my own energy; personal style; behavior; kinetic signature; overall attitude



the states

The Second House STATE OF SECURITY

The Second State of Security is where and how we assess our worth. Everyone defines value differently (see your Second State Governor). To persist as an entity in time and space, one needs to build a sense of constancy and propriety to assure security and survival. Forces in the Second State express what can be counted but *only after they're earned*; hence, the traditional Second House link to earned income. Look at the State of Security as the bank of the United States of Oneself; withdraw "funds" as you wish but don't forget to replenish the supply of your hard-earned keep. When activated, forces found here tend to stabilize our experience. Over time, we discover what can be relied on to hold lasting value in a world that is constantly changing.

I'm STABILIZED in a state of security

SUN; finds inner security by realizing self-worth

MOON; learns to depend on instincts to be happy

MERCURY; a mental skill for solving survival problems

VENUS; needs affluence, beauty and art to feel stable

MARS; security means knowing how to get things done

JUPITER; faith in one's own resources expands sense of value

SATURN; there is no security until it's built from scratch

CHIRON; subverting traditional values to redefine security

URANUS; only as secure as autonomy permits; feast or famine

NEPTUNE; spiritually-based immaterial values define security

PLUTO; the will to survive no matter what; highly sexed

Forces in the Second State symbolize the values of what is held most important and what, also, must be earned before integrated. When over-emphasized, these forces can stubbornly cling and fixate on what it is most familiar and what it claims as its own (propriety) and thus, generating inertia and slowing down evolutionary imperatives like growth, expansion and transformation.

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

how security is defined; what provides constancy; earned income and self-worth; what needs replenishing after spending

The Third House STATE OF MIND

After establishing our personal values and survival criteria, our attention naturally branches out to make meaningful connections with the immediate environment. Our state of mind addresses how we *translate* incoming signals by making maps and models of our daily lives. Here, we learn to make sense of everyday impressions by the associations we create between the out-there events and the concepts we assign them in our own minds. Our state of mind is determined by how we interpret signals (experience) into information (understanding). Forces residing in our state of mind act as antennas for gathering and processing data.

I TRANSLATE my state of mind

SUN; realizes Self by associating with meaningful ideas

MOON; needs to talk about feelings before fully feeling them

MERCURY; a mental talent for keeping track of details

VENUS; knows love by associating affection and beauty

MARS; learns by doing; excited by kinetic associations

JUPITER; uses a lot of words to discover what is really meant

SATURN; fear of being stupid; commitment to learning

CHIRON; subverts common meanings of words to articulate

URANUS; must be outspoken to maintain autonomy; candid

NEPTUNE; psychically attuned to surroundings; empathic

PLUTO; perennial student obsessed with learning; infomania

Our state of mind express our problem-solving processes; how we figure things out. Forces therein associate and compare data for similarities to create meaningful connections. The state of mind is preoccupied with conceptual survival, intelligence and sanity. Forces in this state convey an educational style, ie., *how we learn*. When over-emphasized, the mind circuitously gathers data with little or no attention to context and we trivialize our lives by over-conceptualization; *we end up living in our heads*.

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

gathering data; making maps; thinking, speaking & writing styles; how experience is interpreted into meaningful information; what needs to be spoken

The Fourth House
THE HOME STATE

After expressing ourselves, securing our survival needs and solving our problems, we naturally seek sustenance; the food we eat, where we live, the emotional support of our closest kin, and the kind of life we are living. Our early childhood and its genetic heritage provide the deep psychological habits and mythos of our roots; the underlying emotional truths of where we come from. In the home state, we seek to nurture our most personal needs for privacy, domestication, and planetary placement. Forces residing here infuse our womb environment with what we come to know as safe, familiar and comforting.

I'm SUSTAINED in my home state

SUN: a homebody; a king or queen in castle; family-identified

MOON: deep-rooted attachments to home, family, & the land

MERCURY: takes comfort in having time to think things out

VENUS: luxuriates in esthetically pleasing environments

MARS: driven by doing for the soul; domestically territorial

JUPITER: finds comfort in palatial abode, ideally with a view

SATURN: an orphan until building own domestic structures

CHIRON: subverts traditional family values; a party animal

URANUS: at home when free to come and go; "black sheep"

NEPTUNE: finds solace in retreating into dream home; recluse

PLUTO: acquires emotional healing in a regenerative homelife

Our home state also conveys a geomantic sensibility for what kind of bioregion you feel most at home in and around. The Nadir symbolizes your personal mythos; who you really are inside, not the social face shown to the world. Spiritually, the home state refers to how we nurture the life of soul. When over-emphasized, we are smothered by deeply ingrained comfort habits and archaic family ties that bind our lives with emotionally immobilizing guilt.

-----**BOTTOMLINE**-----

*what is private; how we are nurtured; home, family,
domestication; roots; personal mythos; geomantic style*

The Fifth House
THE CREATIVE STATE

A creative state is excited by the improvisational turn-ons that give us pleasure, entertainment and the sense of romance and adventure. This state signifies how we tend to fall in love and what we need to stay creative; what inspires us. *Three levels of fun; beginning, intermediate and advanced fun.* Beginning fun celebrates the self. Intermediate charismatic fun renders pleasure contagious. Advanced fun as the discipline and talent to extract from yourself works of beauty and art. Fifth State forces can act as muses and spirits animating the states that *get us high*.

I feel HIGH in a creative state

SUN: realizes Self by staying creative, amused and entertained

MOON: needs romance, pleasure & fun to be happy

MERCURY: story-telling style of thinking & communicating

VENUS: talent for applying its esthetics to whatever it creates

MARS: driven to act out impulses to express self; the actor

JUPITER: creates to know and to expand its own perspective

SATURN: fear of being unlovable; seeks love in its creations

CHIRON: passion for reinventing romance & art; punk art

URANUS: demands total autonomy to enact creative process

NEPTUNE: must be inspired to create; musical talents

PLUTO: must recreate the self or self-destruct; do or die

Creation demands outlets; creative forces not consciously directed tend towards self-destruction. Creation thrives on the constant production of its own world, language, aesthetics and culture. Creativity also needs spontaneity to develop and grow; when over-structured, it withers and dies. When the creative state becomes over-emphasized, narcissism turns art into an end in itself and all social context is lost; *an anti-social alienation ensues*.

-----**BOTTOMLINE**-----

*beginning, intermediate & advanced fun; creative/destructive
powers; the Child archetype; aesthetic standards and talents*

The Sixth House STATE OF SERVICE

Out of the self-absorbing blaze of creative states we either learn skills to temper our redhot energy or, risk burn-out. A state of service allows the creative ego to decompress by guiding the attention off the self and redirecting it towards serving the good of the whole, a function in the community. This can involve apprenticeship programs for learning new tools and technologies. Forces in the state of service act like techniques and must be put to work to be effective. We learn to become more useful in a state of service.

How I FUNCTION in a state of service

SUN; realizes the Self by the particular service performed
MOON; needs to stay useful to be satisfied; can work at home
MERCURY; needs to keep learning to remain employed
VENUS; requires work environment of beauty and affection
MARS; prefers physically active tasks; work-motivated
JUPITER; seeks a vocation to express beliefs and views
SATURN; accomplishes the most in management positions
CHIRON; drawn to alternative forms of employment
URANUS; is brilliant when doing tasks in its own way
NEPTUNE; a job must double as an inspiring mission
PLUTO; outgrows work that fails to renew energies & purpose

Personally-resonant vocation is the underlying intent of the state of service. The 6th state governor naturally wants to serve the Ascendant, just as healthy work naturally makes the person happy. As most work is stressful, the 6th state also signifies health-related issues. Jobs that don't feed us are frustrating and lead to stresses that expedite illnesses. Over-emphasized in a state of service, we lose ourselves in our work and/or get sick. The Sixth State governor can indicate areas in the physical body where stress tends to accumulate first, ie., Taurus governs neck & shoulders.

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

*what needs to be used; utilitarian, functional & service-oriented;
 skills, apprenticeship and technology; ideal working conditions*

The Seventh House STATE OF INTIMACY

Forces in the state of intimacy come alive as we relate one-to-one with another; in courtship, partnership and as lifemates. The 7th State governor, or relating style, symbolizes who and what we attract as partners and as conditions necessary for maintaining intimacy. Sometimes, this represents psychological projections, those attributes we are not ready to embrace yet can experience vicariously through someone who already embodies them. A state of intimacy informs a *relationship criteria*: the kind of partnership (business and/or personal) we unconsciously, and consciously, seek to balance the person we have become so far; we tend to attract what we unconsciously need to embody. With enough exposure to and communion with the beloved, we eventually embody these attractive attributes through osmosis and symbiosis.

What ATTRACTS me into a state of intimacy

SUN; relationship-defined; attracted to heroic types
MOON; needs comfort and safety; attracted to a maternal mate
MERCURY; needs someone to talk to; attracted to good listener
VENUS; needs to share love; attracted to an affectionate lover
MARS; needs someone to do things with; attracted to a doer
JUPITER; needs moral support; attracted to a "cheerleader"
SATURN; needs structure to relate; attracted to paternal mate
CHIRON; needs subversion; attracted to a mischievous mate
URANUS; needs liberating; attracted to rebellious lovers
NEPTUNE; needs inspiring; attracted to poetic, artistic muses
PLUTO; needs transforming; attracted to powerful catalysts

The state of intimacy defines the kind of openness we need to unmask the "act" of our Ascendant. When over-emphasized, the state of intimacy diminishes our distinction as individuals; *we become lost in the other.*

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

*what we attract to us; relating and mating style;
 conditions for courtship, intimacy partnership;
 "projections" and "shadow"; marriage*

The Eighth House

STATE OF SURRENDER

The sign over the state of surrender reads: *"leave your ego behind."* Over-identification with ego creates resistance to any true state of surrender. *Surrender of what?* Look to the Ascendant. Whenever we over-identify with any one self-image or ego style, the instinctive surge for catharsis and change is inhibited; spiritually speaking, we begin to die on the inside. Surrender acts as a release. From the petite morte of sexual orgasm to psychological ego-death/rebirth processes and biological extinction itself, *death expresses an evolutionary imperative for growth.* Chaos accelerates evolution. Forces in the State of Surrender act like *chaos triggers* for catalyzing enough change to assure growth.

What CATALYZES me into a state of surrender

SUN; undergoing enough transformation to realize the Self
MOON; outgrows stagnant feelings through emotional crisis
MERCURY; mentally stimulated by investigation and research
VENUS; in love with intensity, passion and transformation
MARS; excited by acting out its changes; a forceful sex drive
JUPITER; experiences that challenge perspective and beliefs
SATURN; sexual phobias compel commitment to healing
CHIRON; subverting sexual norms; genderbending
URANUS; the freedom for sexual experimentation
NEPTUNE; the inspiration of transcendent sexual communion
PLUTO; empowerment to merge with greater forces than ego

A state of surrender yields a greater receptivity to living forces, or spirits, of nature; sometimes related to shamanic initiations. The openness of a state of surrender creates more perception of the values and resources of others. Over-emphasized, the state of surrender undermines our attempts at personal constancy and stability by forcing change where none is needed; *we become intensity junkies.*

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

*transformation essential to growth; chaos, sexuality,
 death/rebirth cycles; values & resources of others;
 secret desires, impulses & instincts; shamanism*

The Ninth House

STATE OF FAITH

Our state of faith conveys the spiritual orientation of how we come to know truth. After undergoing enough transformative process innate to any real state of surrender, consciousness inevitably expands. *We see more. And, with renewed eyes.* A personal vision of truth emerges -- *our truth* -- along with a confidence in its particular point of view. This perspective can develop into a belief and even, an entire philosophy or religion. As this persists, our vision crystallizes into a bias and a dogma, or absolute belief, until challenged by greater truths than itself. We tend to exalt those forces in the state of faith as they bring us closer to spirit, or God, energizing our sense of purpose. Here, we come to understand life in the abstract as a metaphysical process stemming from our *point of worship*, what we are living for, *whether we know what it is or not.*

What is EXALTED in a state of faith

SUN; Self-realization through a seeking after greater truths
MOON; happy only when living an emotionally truthful life
MERCURY; abstract ideas stimulate the search for truth
VENUS; a spiritual love of shared ethics and aesthetics
MARS; action as sacred; acting in accord with views & beliefs
JUPITER; an ethic that develops with social interactions
SATURN; Doubting Thomas; a skeptical believer of truth
CHIRON; subversive alternatives to formal religious dogmas
URANUS; spiritual freedom to believe everything & nothing
NEPTUNE; unifying gnosis of an All-Is-One mysticism
PLUTO; need to outgrow beliefs as they're rendered obsolete

Any true state of faith extends our perception beyond preconceptions into those wilder concept-free zones where truth can be known directly. When over-fixated in a state of faith, we forget the relative nature of our views and grow falsely convinced: *"God told me to tell you..."*

-----BOTTOMLINE-----

*gnosis or direct experience of truth; point of view, bias, beliefs;
 personal dogma; spiritual orientation, philosophy, metaphysics*

The Tenth House
STATE OF REPUTATION

If the state of faith conveys our aspirations, the state of our reputation shows *what we are known for*. Here the focus shifts from searching to attaining; from expansion to the hard work of materialization and self-representation. *Get your goods to market before they rot*. Forces perched in our state of reputation delineate our ambitions. These forces tend to be sensitive to public opinion and contribute much to what *builds and/or ruins* our reputation. Psychologically, this state holds the childhood wish of *what we wanted to be when we grew up*. The Midheaven doubles as our *public image*, our best side; those attributes most likely to elicit credibility in the public eye and assure a successful career in the out-there world. *Welcome to the publicity machine*.

What my state of reputation is KNOWN FOR

SUN; leadership qualities and a strong point of view
MOON; a personable presence comfortable in the limelight
MERCURY; a source of ideas; wants the intellect recognized
VENUS; for aesthetics and values; married to goals & career
MARS; as a doer; career-motivated; will fight to secure status
JUPITER; a big picture vision; can be politically influential
SATURN; expertise; a closet person; deep need to be somebody
CHIRON; as a maverick; subverts the status quo expectations
URANUS; as some kind of genius; free to reinvent public self
NEPTUNE; as a dreamer, poet, artist; hopes to inspire world
PLUTO; as a powerhouse; a forceful, transformative presence

A reputation is cultivated over time by a calculated mix of personal competence, other people's opinions (media), hard work and pure luck. As such, a state of reputation precedes us and is never completely under our command. When we over-emphasize the importance of our rep, we alienate ourselves from deeper sources of soul sustenance and like an uprooted tree, crash down to the earth below. *Never believe your own PR*.

-----**BOTTOMLINE**-----

public image & career; what needs recognition; professional standards; child's wish fulfillment; how success is defined

The Eleventh House
COMMUNITY STATE

If our reputation was built on attaining personal goals and building a public image then, the community state points to our socialization processes; the role(s) we play in our village of peers and beyond to society at large. Our closest community is the particular clan, or tribe, that shares the most common-unity with our life's dreams. Forces residing here inform a friendship criteria; *the company we can keep*. These can indicate the social situations and group dynamics we can fit into. From beach parties to radical activist squats to virtual online communities, this is where and how our individual lives fit into a larger social context.

How I can FIT IN to my community state

SUN; as a social star who needs satellites as much as friends
MOON; by forming strong bonds to friends (extended family)
MERCURY; making friends with people smarter than me
VENUS; as a party animal who befriends beautiful, artsy types
MARS; as an activist; develops friendships in shared activities
JUPITER; seeking out uplifting people who share similar views
SATURN; becoming responsible for structuring the social life
CHIRON; by conspiring with rebels, punks & fashion elites
URANUS; a mover & a shaker; becoming a revolutionary
NEPTUNE; a utopian; solace provider to fringe-dwellers
PLUTO; a social catalyst; transforms & then, outgrows groups

Forces in the community state symbolize our life dreams and the specific social climate necessary for their realization; we can't realize our highest ideals in isolation; Eleventh State activities break down alienation. When our community state is over-emphasized, we're entangled in other people's lives and distracted by too many influences. We lose track of the original dreams our social life was supposed to support.

-----**BOTTOMLINE**-----

*friendship criteria; how we fit into social context;
types of people we pick as friends; the dreams
we need others to help maintain & realize*

The Twelfth House
SUBCONSCIOUS STATE

The subconscious state acts as the chart's "closet", where we tend to stuff whatever we're not ready to face about ourselves. Forces in this state represent repressions and hereto unknown facets of our totality. To access them, look to your 12th state governor. Add to this a healthy respect for unknowns and more faith in your basic goodness. Self-compassion is essential; not all unknowns are scary and not every repression is ugly. The Twelfth State symbolizes a sanctuary from the out-there world, where ego can dissolve and commune with nature. Forces hiding here are light-sensitive and must occasionally vanish from view to revive and know themselves.

What is OBSCURED in subconscious states

SUN; deflects attention off Self to realize Self (Self as mystery)

MOON; happiness depends on emotional withdrawal & solace

MERCURY; analytical processes operate subconsciously

VENUS; the heart hides away until a more perfect love arrives

MARS; motives out of focus; action springs forth from languor

JUPITER; hidden benevolence of a guardian angel; good luck

SATURN; a sensitive soul needs to structure its own sanctuary

CHIRON; subversive fantasies taunt & tease the conscious ego

URANUS; autonomy is realized through solitude & retreat

NEPTUNE; closet psychic; intuition blooms later in life

PLUTO; mystic; regeneration via mystical union with divine

Forces in the subconscious state are diffused and obscured. They demand reflection for their experience. When over-emphasized -- *too much escape or withdrawal* -- alienation dissolves those reality structures essential to ego survival; hence, 12th House traditional association with insane asylums, hospitals, and prisons. *Learn to go beyond the mind or go crazy; flip in or flip out...*

-----**BOTTOMLINE**-----

depository for repressions; what requires withdrawal to experience; internal & vertical; sanctuary from world; mystical union with cosmos

THE COMPASS POINTS

Ascendant, Nadir, Descendent & Midheaven

Astrology charts are **maps; maps of time & space**. Like some navigational maps, astrological charts are framed by compass points (the four directions: N, W, S, & E) providing us map-readers with a sense of orientation. In Western, or geocentric astrology, the Ascendant signifies the Eastern horizon where the sun rises every morning. The Midheaven refers to North, when the Sun hits high noon; the Descendent marks sunset, just as the Nadir delineates midnight. If you were born around midnight, your Sun would be close to the Nadir of your chart; if you were born near sunrise, your Sun would conjunct your Ascendant.

Each of the four points also act as governors for four states; picture them as the major governors of the United States of Oneself. The Ascendant governs the State of Being, the Nadir governs the Home State, the Descendent governs the State of Intimacy and the Midheaven governs the Professional State. When combined, these four cardinal points offer specific information about what our totality needs to orient and manifest a real life in Time and Space. By understanding the function of each of the four compass points, you can discover how that totality can actualize a place in this world.

The horizontal axis of this compass marks the ***Ascendant/Descendent polarity***, symbolizing patterns of adaptive behavior and relationship need structures. I'll refer to these two sides of the same coin as: ***The Act*** and ***The Relating Style***, respectively. The Act develops during childhood as an instinct for finding our way in and around the tricky world of adults. The sign of the Ascendant (AKA the Rising Sign) symbolizes specific instinctive reactions to our immediate environment and how we naturally (read: automatically) tend to move and act. It characterizes our ***kinetic signature***, what makes every person unique. Before sharing some examples, I'll assume you already know that I embrace all astrological styles as equal and hold none in higher or lower regard than another; the following adjectives are, for me, terms of endearment.

The Act of Getting Your Act Together

Sneaky **Scorpio Rising** moves with enough secrecy to uncover the truth of a situation, get to "the bottom of things", with minimal yielding to social protocol; it wishes to do so without getting caught and risking being misunderstood. Sweet-smiling **Libra Rising** placates graciously to avoid conflict and to assure future relations; it accumulates a social artillery of pleasant manners. Solemn **Capricorn Rising** achieves responsibility and power by meeting parental expectations and honoring "pecking orders" of familial hierarchies; as "little adults", they aim to grow up fast. Cagey **Gemini Rising** learns early on to talk themselves into and out of any situation by copping attitudes like a chameleon changes color to blend into the foliage; their gift of gab can just as easily entertain as it can annoy.

As children become adults, their Act sophisticates and eventually crystallizes like a mask stuck on the face of an actor. When we become overly identified with our Act, we succumb to *persona identification* or, what I like to call **Terminal Adulthood**; what happens when we take ourselves too damn seriously. As kids, many of us remember how damn seriously adults took themselves. We remember how dad's friend, the policeman, really looked like a "cop", with or without his badge. We recall how the lady behind the school library desk really looked like a "librarian." Maybe she forgot she was pretending and got lost in the appearances of her Act. It's easy to do; most of us have been at it for most of our lives. Over-fixating on the Act, our perspective narrows; a soul feels isolated in self-imposed cages of repetitive attitudes. Study the sign on your own Ascendant and discover something about how you get *stuck on yourself*. Study the opposite sign (Descendent) for more clues on how to *drop your act*.

The **Relating Style** is always in the opposite sign of the Ascendant. By embodying it, you can temporarily disidentify with your Act; a process I call *blowing your cover*. The Descendent governs the Seventh State of Intimacy (or, the 7th House in more archaic terms) and as we know, there can be no real intimacy before taking off your mask; intimacy requires vulnerability.

THE ACT OF DROPPING YOUR ACT

The Relating Style of our Descendent informs us of what kind of individuals and relationship structures we tend to attract to us in an attempt to strike a balance with the more personal style of our Act. When truly engaged, our Relating Style temporarily *unhinges* our Act; it blows our cover. Sometimes this is embarrassing; sometimes it's lovely. When it happens, it always opens you up to another person. Ongoing intimacy involves a balancing act; between the self-exposure (having your cover blown) for being open with another person and then, the time you need for recovering the unique signature of your personal style -- your Act -- *over and over, again*.

If **Scorpio Rising** relaxes its covert tactics, it can become vulnerable enough to trust another. But first it must simplify. Through Taurus, the Scorpio Rising individual can express a far more basic and direct form of its totality to experience intimacy. To overcome its self-conscious mannerisms, **Libra Rising** must act impulsively. A Libra Rising person can do so by exploring the bolder, more spontaneous Aries Relating Style; decisive, immediate action becomes a source of dynamic energy. When ambitious **Capricorn Rising** faces its barren inner life, a profound need for nurturance is exposed. A Capricorn Rising person can find relief by yielding to the more subjective life of caring, sensitive **Cancer**. Capricorn grows vulnerable by offsetting its serious act of self-reliance in emotional attachment to another.



THE NADIR

Sustenance from Below

Funk & Wagnals standard dictionary definition of *nadir* is: "The point of the celestial sphere directly beneath the place where one stands." As long as we're living on this planet, the Earth itself is our first home and we, its children. Our natal nadir, or 4th Home State Governor expresses our "geomantic style"; how we tend to resonate with and connect to the planet. Buried deep in our primordial reptilian brain is a kind of "home-site selection" instinct for knowing where and how to plant roots, build shelter and settle. This home-site selection instinct is deeper than economic, social, status and even familial motives for choosing one place to live over another. This pre-rational instinct knows instantaneously how safe or threatened we feel in any region or neighborhood, while producing a profound sense of belonging in us upon entering that bio-region that feels like home. It's just a matter of knowing how to detect and identify its voice and that is where the astrological nadir comes in.

The sign, or style, at the nadir of a chart conveys something about our needs for feeling comfortable in any given environment and what our totality needs to feel settled in one place. The nadir refers to the underground rooting system of our lives; the style by which our multidimensional being finds sustenance through sense of place and in those emotional attachments sustaining well-being. The nadir represents a *domestic style*; how a house becomes a home and how a dwelling is sanctified and made safe to inhabit.

Ask yourself: Is there some room in your house or a house in a neighborhood or a neighborhood in your city where you **feels more at home** than others? Why are you residing where you are now? Besides economic, political &/or social reasons, are there any deeper motives for living there? Does your body feel good where you sleep, eat and live or, depressed, anxious or unsettled? Look to your nadir. The astrological sign at our nadir conveys the style of our most personal, private self. Unconcerned with public display, it symbolizes how our immediate family knows us: how we are around the home.

To feel at home, a **Pisces** nadir finds a hiding place and refuge from the work-a-day world. The **Gemini** nadir settles around the exchange of ideas, books, telephones, computers and other info-interactive processes. **Virgo** nadir needs enough order around the home to support a work environment. **Aries** nadir is at home single-handedly controlling the space, deciding where the furniture goes and what hangs on the walls. Besides the tenacity of our territorial instincts, the nadir also symbolizes the kind of life we need to be living to provide a support base for the challenges of worldly involvement. When we can draw sustenance from the nadir, we may feel more ready to branch out to the sometimes public realization of our innermost goals and dreams. The Midheaven represents a **Public Image** that can inform but never completely govern our reputation. As any famous person can tell you, reputation belongs to the realm of public domain; many celebrities give up their privacy for it. The Midheaven acts as a kind of lens through which our reputation is viewed by an impersonal public. The MC is where we're most vulnerable to public opinion and, how we tend to define status. The sign and forces at the Midheaven provide clues to the impersonal public's **first impression** of us and, what we may need to continue delivering to remain credible in the public eye.

To the extent your promotional material coincides, or collides, with your Midheaven may determine whether you get that big job or not. Look to your Midheaven (MC) to help determine the style to achieve your goals through promoting yourself. Beware the shadow of the Midheaven: the extent you believe in your own PR is a measure of how close you are to *selling out*. **Jupiter conjunct MC** is like a spotlight and is expected to provide the public with vision. If this placement fails to deliver the vision, the public may start losing faith (Jupiter), as personal consciousness suffers the frustration of unrealized vision. With **Mercury at the MC**, the public notices an intellect and anticipates *ideas*. **Uranus near the MC** transmits the impression of an eccentric spirit or genius; this person can incite public credibility by staying innovative, unconventional, and unpredictable. With this placement, controversy makes good press if you can stand by your outrageous claims and keep delivering quality scandal.

Cracking the Code of the Midheaven

With the *Sun at the MC*, the public expects us to shine for them and present strong views. With the *Moon at the MC*, we may need a fan club. The Moon here seems to need public more than people; it depends on public recognition to stay happy. With a *Pisces Midheaven*, people sense a dreamer in their midst. These people are more "believable" expressing a public style that is more imaginative. An artistic approach might work better than a more "organized" one (unless, of course, Mercury or Saturn is nearby.) With a *Virgo Midheaven*, the public picks up a tinkering, methodical style. This person may be more fussy about what goes on public display; they're at their best conveying technical know-how in a spirit of service. A *Sagittarian Midheaven* sends the world a signal of risk-taking. These people do well in careers necessitating a gambling instinct and the projection of personal vision. *Taurus at the MC* tends to project a quality of stability and serenity. These folks succeed by delivering the goods in a more conservative style. They accomplish much through an approach conveying dependability.

By decoding the Midheaven, we find everything we need for assembling a Press Kit. It's can be successful insofar as we align our promotional material and presentation with the astrological style crowning the Midheaven, *the one communicating the public intention of our totality*. To benefit from this, apply your understanding of its attributes to the design of everything that goes public; business cards, brochures, dress code and our overall publicity style. Eventually, this develops into a kind of "look" that is distinctly yours, a kind of signature by which your work stands out amongst all the other public images clamoring for attention in the marketplace. By understanding, integrating and applying the vertical axis of our Midheaven and Nadir, we fortify the backbone of our totality. Strengthening our "verticality" supplies the support to expressing ourselves as individuals (Ascendant) who are strong enough to afford real intimacy with another (Descendent). The horizontal plane of the Ascendant and Descendent acts as a model for the (inter)personal identity so essential for establishing familial and domestic bonds (Nadir) that support our life goals (Midheaven).

THE GOVERNORS *Guardians of the Thresholds*

The styles preceding each state govern that state; each provides an access point for intentional entry into the real life territory that state refers to. Whether or not there are symbols in a state, we look to its governor for information about that state and how to enter it. There are no accidental charts. No accidental governors either; all seem to be in office with a job to do. Here are some examples of how eight state governors rule their respective states. (see "COMPASS POINTS" for more info on the other four):

Second State Savings & Loans Governor

This governor is a banker showing us what can be depended on for a sense of value and worth; what provides constancy and security. Sagittarius equates security with having enough freedom to keep moving. Aries finds stability in controlling its assets. Pisces derives security from immaterial values. Capricorn depends on values that can be used and put to work to attain big picture goals.

Third State Surveillance Governor

This governor is a mapmaker who informs us how we translate local (daily) experience into meaningful concepts, formulas and schemes. In Cancer, a personal involvement with the data helps retain information. In Aquarius, a more self-detached scientific mode of experimentation creates its own meanings. Leo can learn anything if the process is entertaining and creative. Capricorn gravitates to learning whatever it can turn around and teach at a later time. Slow to learn but thorough in its approach, Taurus integrates its interpretations through its values.

Fifth State Artistic Governor

This governor is an artist obsessed with the most direct way to excite a creative state, especially as it develops talent. Sagittarius creates out of expansive experiences and the faith that instills. Scorpio creates out of its passions and convictions for transforming itself.

Libra creates well in tandem with another towards harmonious outcomes. Virgo approaches the creative process with methods and techniques to assure its continuity. Pisces depends on inspiration to create so as to disappear into the process.

Sixth State Labor Governor

This governor is a labor union chief who knows what we're capable of doing and which tools fit the right job. With Gemini, we're at our best when assigned a variety jobs or tasks to further our education; if we stop learning, we change jobs. Aquarius works well in a team for attaining humanitarian goals. Capricorn accomplishes the most by filling management or executive positions. Cancer prefers working out of the home and in comfortable environments. Aries does its best work acting single-handedly and making its own decisions; self-employment.

Eighth State Therapeutic Governor

This governor is a shaman/psychologist who initiates rituals of necessary transformation and healing to what has stagnated or been wounded. With Aries, personal growth is sparked by becoming more spontaneous. In Taurus, healing comes by standing firm and steadfast. With Leo, evolution is triggered by self-expression and having more fun. Libra excites true change by developing perception towards the other in relationship. Sagittarius provokes transformation by risks taken for moving beyond the familiar through consciousness expanding experiences.

Ninth State Advisory Governor

This governor is an astrologer who knows enough about the cosmos to provide us with a meaningful perspective to believe in. Pisces' spiritual orientation needs experiences of profound unity with cosmos. Scorpio knows truth by what is most convincing. Virgo's philosophy must be functional not abstract; appreciates methodology. The Cancer belief system is personally attached to its highly subjective perspective. Capricorn takes its cosmology seriously when dignifying itself; it must respect its point of view.

Eleventh State Social Governor

This governor is an over-qualified, PhD social worker who shapes our friendship criteria to support longterm goals. Gemini needs social diversity and mental stimulation to support the longterm learning. Cancer turns friends into extended family members to assure long range goals of staying connected. Leo needs friends as an audience for appreciating future creations. Libra only becomes friends with equals to support longterm dreams of intimate relations. Sagittarius defines friendship by shared interests, ideals and beliefs in the hopes of future collective purpose.

The Twelfth State Mystical Governor

This governor is a poet whose whimsy lures us to hide away from the out-there world to reflect and daydream. *This poet governor is an escapist* who shows us what we tend to hide from ourselves and others. Scorpio withdraws to reflect on issues involving sexuality, control and passion. Taurus enters mystical states through the physical body and its sensations; self-denial involves physicality. Aries denies its own ego tendencies and must withdraw to know itself. Capricorn hides its sense of authority.. Virgo engages a methodical mysticism, as much repressing a perfectionist streak and obsession for order.



PROBABLE PLACEMENT

An Interpretive Technique

An astrology chart is a kind of snapshot of the solar system taken from the Earth's vantage at the precise minute and physical location of birth. The array of symbols spread across the map is probably not accidental. Those inky scratch marks on the paper may indeed appear random at first glance. Yet upon closer observation the author continues to discover distinct patterns and designs interacting with each other in a web of associations. Still, there are no absolute answers to be found. And, that's fine. Figuring people out isn't nearly as interesting as applying a little creative thought to the process of perception, to see into the very heart of the human predicament. To witness and to report is more than enough, it's breathtaking. Heartbreaking. And more than we can ever imagine.

Everybody loves a good story. One of my favorites is how the soul incarnates throughout numerous lifetimes in an ongoing (search ?) journey back to its highest spiritual source. In this scenario, each life provides specific lessons to be learned that assist the soul during its planetary engagement within the human form. From this perspective, we are not so much human beings having spiritual experiences but spiritual beings having human ones. Let's add a twist to the plotline. Even though each person is connected to a soul, let's say that not everybody has embodied one. What does this mean ? On the Earth plane, whatever is not embodied or manifest is still in its potential state hence, the potentiality of soul remains historically questionable. (Skeptics take note) Supposing this is true, it may be logical to assume that a soul must be earned, worked for and nurtured in certain ways before its embodiment can be realized inside the human condition. It's no wonder why so few of us are soul-realized. Perhaps only a minuscule percentage of us humans are "soul-embodied." Maybe only a slightly larger number of us are working towards "awakening" intentionally and a larger number still, unintentionally. The largest number of people seem to be food for their compulsive desires to stay asleep to this possibility. Food for the moon?

The following interpretive technique of probable placement focuses on the soul's probable intent and assumes that the geometric arrangement of your chart is *intentional*. Imagine now a scene in Limbo Bardo, a netherworld between incarnations, where your immaterial soul remains suspended until its next descent into matter. Where there are no beginnings or endings, invisible selection processes continue determining the most fitting interstellar logistics to midwife your next incarnation. Parents are chosen. A location is coordinated; a time is set. Down below on planet Earth, intelligent forces arrange for the conception of your next life. As you descend, you feel the push and pull of manifestation before you. Throughout the gestation of your newly evolving biological body...from cell to embryo to fetus...you close in on the moment you enter the body and take your very first breath, in time and in space. An entity is born and a birth chart, recorded.

the Sun

You were *not* born into a particular Sun Sign because it's comes naturally. The Sun probably shines in an area that's been previously lacking in light and heat. Your Sun sign probably symbolizes a unique perspective and a path of Self-realization. A Taurus Sun realizes itself through constancy and self-reliance; perhaps previous incarnations were over-emphasized in transformation. A Leo Sun realizes a more joyous, light-hearted life than before; the Scorpio Sun journeys through the underworld intensities of a more authentic and passionate life.

the Moon

Usually the moon is placed in a state that reminds us of a previous comfort zone or emotional attachment. It instills a sense of familiarity to our strange, new life; *where we go when life gets weird*. If the genetic mother's forces aspect your moon, there's a good chance you're both meeting each other again. See which of her forces contact your moon for clues about your shared bonding dynamics. The Moon appears where we can find happiness when its needs are met (the style and state it's in) and depression when those needs are frustrated; depression is not an emotion per se but a real-time signal that we've lost touch with our Moon.

Mercury

Mercury the messenger is sent to the state needing the most articulation. As part of our surface surveillance team, Mercury maps its local territory (its state) and transmits results by radio antennae (its style). Or, like a photo-journalist in the field, it takes pictures of the action and then, writes home about it. Mercury's placement may also represent an area previously known for unspeakable truths and where we are learning to communicate for the first time. In the Ninth State, we voice our beliefs; the Twelfth, we may tend to keep our ideas to ourselves.

Venus

The attracting force of Venus graces the map wherever love is needed to soften the soul's sometimes relentless pursuit of embodiment. Through its style and state we come to know the kind of beauty that draws us into the experience of love. A Sixth State Venus is attracted to a love of work or a love that really works; a functional love. Venus in the Eighth State is drawn to a transformative love for exciting passion and growth. Venus in the Second State yearns for a lasting love, both loyal and true.

Mars

Central Casting probably sends Mars where a sentry is needed to guard or to fight and control a territory crucial to the soul's physical orientation; *what is worth defending*. Mars in the Third State gives us the energy to defend our ideas and what we really mean by them. Mars also shows our incarnating soul its distinctly human sexuality, its ego drives and its underlying reason for living; *its will to act*. Mars in the Fifth State must have fun and stay creative *to do*. A Twelfth State Mars is muted and needs more spiritual motives to energize action. A Second State Mars is driven by propriety, perhaps to outgrow previous lives spent without possessions.

Jupiter

The expansive force of Jupiter probably shows up wherever we need to exaggerate an area just to enlighten ourselves to its existence. As a result, things can get pretty humorous in this state. With Jupiter in the Third State, we make a big deal by talking a lot before knowing what we mean. In the 1st State, there is a need to show more faith in in one's most personal experience as a basis for knowing truth.

A Seventh State Jupiter exaggerates the significance of relationships; perhaps previous lives were cloistered away from intimacy. With time, Jupiter's placement expands consciousness towards the development of what we care about, ethics and conscience. Jupiter represents a code of ethics we live by to relate our lives to a social context.

Saturn

The placement of Saturn posits a kind of pressure point for our true responsibilities. They are made true by the work necessary to develop our *response-ability* in this area. Saturn loosely symbolizes the anchor of a chart. Without it, we have little chance of manifesting a life on the Earth plane. There is a karmic lesson with Saturn involving past-life fears that were never faced and must now be encountered. Around Saturn, the boundless soul senses anxiety from the possibility of imminent entrapment within the limitations of time and space. Natal Saturn shows us where human experience must be structured by the willingness and ability to embody soul.

Chiron

The subversive force of Chiron is sent to a region requiring a challenge to status quo norms. Perhaps previous incarnations were overly structured, calcified and/or diseased. Chiron the healer arrives in the operating room and works with surgical precision to undermine existing standards while creating new ones. Chiron in the Third State rearranges the way we think, speak and write; Chiron in the Eleventh State undermines obsolete social patterns and makes friends with rebels. Chiron also represents the kundalini force of sexual and psychic healing, as well as imparting a kind of maverick status wherever it lives.

Uranus

The transpersonal force of Uranus is most likely placed in an area to ignite the soul's knowledge of freedom lost, as if previous lifetimes knew enslavement in this area. It's where we go to receive, integrate and administer the shocks of freedom and for breaking the trance of mortal amnesia. Its state contains the kind of liberation available to us in the human realm. Uranus in the Eighth State bestows autonomy through surrender to archetypal energies; a First State Uranus finds personal freedom. In the Third State, Uranus gives sudden candor to one's thoughts and speech.

The dreaming force of Neptune force contains past-life memories of unearthly transcendence and unspeakable beauty. We naively expect this experience in the current life or develop high hopes for replicating our deep past in the area where Neptune resides. This is where we can absolutely believe something despite real-time evidence to the contrary. The soul learns human disillusionment and oblivion around Neptune. In the Seventh State, we face illusions about intimacy; in the Tenth State, our dreams about fame. Through the suffering of disillusionment comes an understanding of which dreams are possible on the earth plane and which are not; by facing our human shortcomings, we may earn some compassion. Neptune's placement probably shows us where this compassion is needed to let us down easy around our delusions, while inspiring us towards realizing those dreams that can and do come true. Natal Neptune also refers to that region where soul seeks refuge and sanctuary in this lifetime.

Pluto

The transforming force of Pluto is probably sent to the state prone to the most stagnation and thus, requiring the greatest change and (r)evolution. Wherever Pluto resides is where soul can experience spiritual rejuvenation on earth and where soul shows its deepest hunger for human experience. Pluto in the Twelfth State regenerates by withdrawing from the world and communing with nature, divinity and mysticism. Pluto in the First State craves new experiences and new ways to express its most novel impressions. Pluto's placement symbolizes the most direct expression of soul intent. A Tenth State Pluto's imperative is attaining enough recognition from the world to justify embodiment. Pluto in the Third State thirsts for learning and assigning meaning to its experience in order to realize soul intent. In the Eleventh State, there's a hunger to associate with influential people...*the movers and shakers of society*..to eventually become one of them, ourselves.



the styles

Six Astrological Polarities

The 12 Styles as an Interplay of Contraries

All twelve styles are inherent to each individual at varied degrees of expression and latency. Consider the 12 styles as a spectrum through which our totality can express and know itself. To encourage a dynamic understanding of their essences, they'll be presented hereafter as six sets of *polarities*. Polarity, as defined here, doesn't imply two split halves but two aspects of a *larger changing whole*. When both sides of any polarity are experienced as equal in value, a transformation begins; an alchemical union of opposites. One outcome of this union is an expanded experience of who we are, as well as more flexibility in the way we think about ourselves. As we experience more reality, our self-concept (or ego) is altered. At this point, we either update our self-image to coincide closer with our new impressions -- *we self-synchronize* -- or, suffer the consequences of inner division and fragmentation of self.

A good way to interpret the twelve styles is to consider them all as tendencies of *specific needs*. This is aptly conveyed by the governors (house cusp rulers) preceding each state. For example, look to where Libra governs to ascertain where you tend to need equality, harmony and tact. Look to where Aries governs to detect a need to be in charge and make your own choices. Wherever Gemini rules we tend to need diversity. Where Scorpio reigns, we have a need for intensity and passion. The style each force passes through symbolizes how we know that force. Venus in Gemini needs to flirt as a way of gathering romantic information. Mars in Capricorn needs to organize its drive around goals to get things done. Jupiter in Leo needs to live by its own self-created ethics. A Scorpio Moon needs to feel deeply and passionately to be happy. Each of the six polarities refer to an interplay of contraries; where opposing sides of your nature interact and if embraced, form a synthesis. For example, the Ascendant/Descendent conveys two sides of experience known as Self and Other, or astrologically as ARIES and LIBRA. Both sides are valid and express "contrary" needs living inside the same changing, whole; the same body...

Aries/Libra

the interplay here is between the individuality and its nemesis of a fulfilling intimacy; Aries is as self-defined as Libra is relationship-defined, the former revolving around the Self and the latter, around the Other. Both express their energies through cardinal modes; real go-getters with plenty of gusto behind their opposing intents. With enough immersion in each as equal values, a synthesis can develop; an intimacy that honors individual integrity while knowing when it is time to separate in a cyclic dance of coming together and moving apart.

Taurus/Scorpio

this interplay oscillates between the spectrum of necessity and desire. Between Taurus' consistent security needs and Scorpio's passionate evolutionary imperatives, a stubborn and relentless pursuit of middle ground arises. Continuity vs. discontinuity; overt vs. covert; simple vs. complex. These fixed contraries hold fast to their respective turfs. Scorpio exhausts itself by too many convoluted strategies for change and eventually turns toward the simple, serene and stabilizing ground of Taurus. On the other extreme, Taurus overdoses on its familiar tried and true values and becomes entrenched in status quo inertia. Passive Taurus can be acted on and catalyzed by imaginative, resourceful Scorpio. Synthesis emerges through rebuilding our values (Taurus) with an eye to change and growth (Scorpio).

Gemini/Sagittarius

this polarity conveys two contrary notions of knowledge. Gemini defines knowledge as the gathering, storage and dissemination of linear data, whereas Sagittarius' knowing is a non-verbal, direct sensory perception of non-linear phenomena. Gemini spins out ideas and concepts, as much as Sagittarius forms opinions, beliefs and dogmas about phenomena it perceives. Gemini covers the details while Sagittarius stays with the big picture. Their synthesis can be understood by the working metaphor of the left (Gemini) and right (Sagittarius) hemispheres of the brain. When intellect can serve intuition, our concepts are more based in a direct experience of reality. When intuitive impressions can be put into words, we are able to communicate the truth as we know it.

THE 12 ASTROLOGICAL STYLES AS NEURO-CHEMICAL TRIGGERS

Lab Experiments in the Word Pharmacy

Cancer/Capricorn

Cancer's deepest roots and Capricorn's highest branches pull at each other, galvanizing tension between potential uprooting and/or the stunting of upwardly mobile expansion. Mother/father, family/career, emotional bonding or a shining reputation. Cancer's clanning instincts can either support or be at odds with Capricorn's monument-building ambitions. Capricorn either embraces support or continues climbing higher rungs of self-reliance. In their synthesis, Cancer struggles against comfort habits to claim new levels of independence as Capricorn reluctantly nurtures a personal life by openly depending on the support of others. At their most disconnected extremes, Cancer drowns in self-imposed martyrdom and subjectivity; Capricorn dehydrates from excessive success and soul loss. In their balance, the tree of life is sustained.

Leo/Aquarius

this lively polarity conveys an interplay between Uranus and the Sun; a creative tension between socialization and self-expression, society and the artist. As the eternal child, Leo is in love with the world it creates and inhabits. As the oddball misfit, Aquarius cannot fit into society and experiments with consensus ideas and customs towards forming new social models. Between Leo's myopia and Aquarius' farsightedness, an oscillation of obsessions occurs between *self* and *humanity*. Combined, they eventually initiate the artist into the "real world" of the community while bringing an audience to the performer.

Virgo/Pisces

this mutable polarity exchanges influences between mystically-inclined Neptune and rationally-based Mercury. Order and chaos, categorization and random patterning, the known and the unknown; the Virgo/Pisces interplay. Virgo is symbolic of harvest skills: separating wheat from the chaff. Virgo discerns between what it considers useful from useless dross. Pisces absorbs everything to identify with unity; it's attuned to the essences rather than the distinctions. Between Piscean unifying and Virgo's ordering tendencies, a balance can be struck when intellect learns to permit more uncertainty and intuitive experience can be organized to allow cognitive assimilation of unknowns.

Words act like drugs; neuro-chemical triggers arousing specific qualities and states of being when spoken and/or thought out. For example, words like: SEXIST, SATAN, JESUS, NIGGER, MARRIAGE, PSYCHIC, LAWYER, and even MOTHER all carry culturally predetermined reactions. Shout any one of them around the "wrong" group of people (those who make a taboo of whatever that word refers to) and watch how that **one word** catalyzes an *external emergency state*. However, when applied more conscientiously, this same principle has the power to startle us into a *creative emergency state*; one that restores the use of our brain/minds for the purpose of creation, not destruction. Like the olde English word for **magic**, "grammarye", awareness of how words work can determine the degree of change we can effect at will; intentionally or by culturally-conditioned reflex. Words are magic. As Dr. Robert Anton Wilson has often prescribed, "*Whosoever controls the metaphor, also, governs the mind.*"

Chaos Theory studies "turbulences" and is widely used by meteorologists everywhere to predict complex atmospheric changes, especially in high turbulence zones such as the Pacific Northwest and the Rocky Mountains. Theoretical physicists suggest that chaos is as close to reality as we're going to get and so, we better get used to it. Is Life, as Buddha suggests, a dream? Is it true that the closer we look at things, the more they tend to change and morph into something else? Or is it merely our perception that changes as we pay closer attention and detect new information about whatever is being observed?

As we learn to absorb, integrate and transmit information at increasingly rapid rates (accelerated further by advancing technologies), we are forced to evolve -- *mutate* -- into more complex and diversified forms of ourselves. The more aware we grow of this acceleration of information and its use, the more complex we invariably must become if only to assure future sanity.

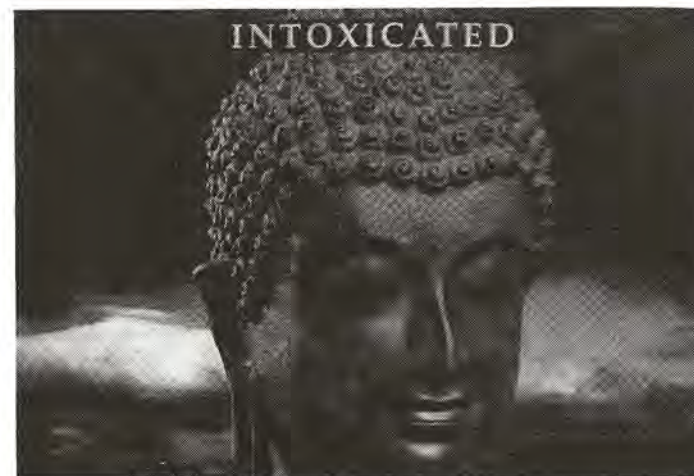
Code of The Cyber-Shaman

If astrology can be seen and utilized as a whole-brain, multidimensional model of Self, it has the potential to challenge and even increase intelligence. As a spirit language, astrology also addresses the alchemical interplay of opposites innate to the human condition and our transformation for becoming more fully human.

The word *cyber* comes from the Greek, meaning "steersman or pilot." A shaman is a dreamtime healer who works with spirits in the spirit world. A cyber-shaman is that part of our emergent future self capable of navigating (piloting) internal energy states (spirits in the material world of our daily lives). As cyber-shamans, we are multi-trackers of energy currents choosing to ride those waves already moving in the direction we want to go in. Sometimes, this means getting taken for a ride. Other times, we sync-up with the forces that be and travel at the speed of grace.

The time I am talking about here is the time of your life. A cyber-shaman only has time to BE EVERYTHING. She moves with Hir totality if SHe moves at all. Real astrologers already know we are not merely Sun signs but much, much more. Imagine each of the twelve signs of the zodiac as twelve archetypal energies existing within each of us in varying degrees of expression and latency. Picture, also, that all twelve styles from ARIES to PISCES, express a different Degree of Consciousness.

By learning to measure consciousness by degrees, much like reading degrees of heat on a thermometer, we can learn to detect and activate those energies most suited to the desired effect or task at hand. A cyber-shaman relates with each of the 12 signs as twelve energy sources; twelve spirits to detect and derive power and wisdom from. By relating to the twelve signs as access points to the various colors, essences and attributes of your Multidimensional Self, you initiate the startling practice of *reality selection*.



REALITY SELECTION

When each sign can represent a different degree of consciousness, each can trigger a different effect. These effects are presented hereafter as "drugs" for the expressed intention of ushering you into your very own **word pharmacy**. These so-called drugs trigger internal emergency states; some of these drugs are manufactured by the brain itself. The goal of the cyber-shaman is to trigger these states on purpose, as part of a larger ritual for growing more conscious and participating more fully in creation and magick.

How does this work ? It works when you are neurally engaged; when your **experience of the energy** is larger than your ideas about the energy. What I'm calling direct neural engagement is another way of referring to your most personal resonance with what each sign represents as an experience for you. The range of your experience determines the depth of your access to your word pharmacy. Through an unequivocal acceptance and embrace of each and every sign, twelve distinct drugs are made available for your immediate pleasure, instruction and creativity.

ENTRY COMMANDS

ARIES (adrenaline): *Source of FIRE. Impulsive action. Conscious excitement. Taking charge to discharge.*
TAURUS (tonic): *Concentration of EARTH. Stabilizing influence. Having what you need. A sensual grip.*
GEMINI (amphetamine): *Circulation of AIR. Mental Flux. Rapidly associating ideas. External diversity.*
CANCER (alcohol): *Source of WATER. Force of habit. Felt-sense. Deep instinct. Tenacious bonding tactics.*
LEO (hedonic): *Concentration of FIRE. Playful self-expression. High style. Innocent pleasure.*
VIRGO (caffeine): *Circulation of EARTH. Nervous dexterity and competence. Sorting out value from the crap.*
LIBRA (hedonic stimulant): *Source of AIR. Perceptive. Tasteful harmonizing influence. Rituals of intimacy.*
SCORPIO (empathogen): *Concentration of WATER. Passionate focus. Persistence of will. Insightful. Lusty.*
SAGITTARIUS (hallucinogen): *Circulation of FIRE. Visionary. Consciousness expanding. Outgoing. Restless.*
CAPRICORN (caffienated alcohol): *Source of EARTH. Self-organizing powers for attaining goals. Dignified.*
AQUARIUS (hallucinogenic stimulant): *Concentration of AIR. Idiosyncratic, inventive, interactive. Party animal.*
PISCES (opiate): *Circulation of WATER. Passive, absorbing, unifying influence. Dissolving differences.*

Each of the above twelve degrees (styles) can be accessed to alter consciousness to support whatever state you're in or wish to be in. With practice, these twelve degrees can develop enough force and density to effect change in the Out-There world. This is how synchronicity becomes a skill and magick, a reality. Experiment with one degree every day for twelve days. Like all effective lab activity, this only works if you **DO IT EVERY DAY**. Do it until until all twelve styles of your totality hold **EQUAL VALUE** for you. Free yourself from the archetypal chauvinism of playing favorites (one sign is no better than another). The goal of this lab work is *to gain access to more degrees of consciousness and hence, grow more conscious.*



*aspects, nodes
& elements*

ASPECTS: The Degree Factor

How Forces Interact With Each Other

The three chief linguistic building blocks of astrology are *States, Forces and Styles*. When all three form a sequence, or an astrological sentence, they show us how a force comes alive in a specific state while passing through a particular style to convey itself. A state (or house) refers to the force's location on the map itself and the style (or sign), the force's unique color and way of conveying its effects. Astrological interpretation depends on your personal understanding of these three elements: *states, forces and styles*. Even a rudimentary comprehension of how they work together offers enough know-how to translate any astrology chart with a good degree of accuracy.

Once you know how forces, states and styles are defined and work together, you're ready to study *aspects*. Aspects symbolize how the forces, or planets, interact; how they speak with each other. Aspects contribute to the depth and eloquence that remains unrecognized when most people hear the word "astrology." Aspects express the contact points shared between the forces and the states they reside in. The culmination of our aspects forms a picture of how we tend to relate with the world and how the world tends to relate back to us. Interpreting aspects requires some imagination and a sensibility for synthesis, for detecting associations between unlikely combinations.

Translating aspects is probably one of the more creative parts of learning astrology. Your talent for interpreting aspects develops as you relate the forces, states and styles in your own chart with direct, real life experiences; you can better perceive in others what you have already perceived in yourself. Each aspect is sustained by a specific angle exerting various degrees of flux, flow, conflict, allegiance, and intensity; these correspond roughly to the five main astrological aspects: *oppositions, trines, squares, sextiles* and *conjunctions*. The more exotic *quincunx* angle will be introduced just to stir things up.

The Degree Factor

Basic geometry informs us that 360 degrees make a circle. The twelve astrological styles from Aries to Pisces are given 30 degrees each. Each runs from zero through 29; at 30, it converts to zero degrees of the next style. To apply, what I'll call, the degree factor brings a certain mental flexibility to the use of astrology. The point here is not making strict black and white, either/or judgments but considering the shades, or degrees, of grey in between. *Degrees demarcate gradation*; they articulate grades, or gradations, of consciousness. Granddaddy of Twentieth Century astrology, Dane Rudhyar, demonstrated his version of the degree factor through mythic narratives by assigning an image and a story to each of the 360 astrological degrees in his extraordinary book, *AN ASTROLOGICAL MANDALA* (Vintage Books).

Here's another model for seeing how the degree factor works. A 29 degree Leo Sun is a different gradation in consciousness than a 4 degree Leo Sun; they're both Leos but at opposite ends of the leonine spectrum. There are no purer or better degrees, just different phases of evolution. The following model was inspired by decades of coffee drinking; from greasy spoon radiator flush to the refined essences of Turkish espressos. Whether you drink coffee or not, this model may help explain how the degree factor follows a densification of consciousness through the 30 degrees of each astrological style.

The Coffee Bean Theory of Gradation

0-5: the green berry still growing on the stalk
6-10: harvested & roasted beans yield a cup of joe
11-15: darker roast of the stronger, richer coffees
16-20: pressurized distillation of various espressos
21-25: dense turkish-style espresso essences
26-29: densest grind of the black residual espresso

Two degrees before and after the conversion point between signs (28 to 02 degrees) marks a turning point for consciousness; traditionally known as a " cusp." When a given planet, or force, sits on the cusp between two signs, some astrologers incorporate elements of both signs but the author's bias bypasses such fence-sitting with the belief that *an Aries is an Aries is an Aries...* no matter what degree. The 29 degree Aries, for example, symbolizes the utter pitch of cardinal fire burning so completely that consciousness transforms through to its next evolutionary phase (symbolized by 00 degrees Taurus). Every astrological sign of the zodiac undergoes these highly transformative conversion points; *consciousness* traverses through all styles and all 360 degrees.

Now look at your map. Notice the numbers in different areas...around the periphery (next to the governors) and inside the states, (next to each of the forces). Each number is given a four-digit status, ie., 25.45. The two digits to the left of the decimal are the degrees. The two digits on the right side of the decimal signify the more fine-tuned reading of minutes. For example, 14.59 degrees of Scorpio is one minute away from being 15.00 degrees of Scorpio. 29.59 Leo is one minute away from being 00.00 Virgo. 28.30 degrees of Libra is exactly three degrees away from 01.30 Scorpio. Look at the degree for interpreting aspects; refer to the minutes for hairline, surgical precision.

Look at the map. You'll notice that all thirty degrees of each sign are not visible. Check the degree of your Ascendant. Most likely, it is not at 00.00 of its sign (there are exceptions). Check the degree and sign of the Twelfth State Governor. If it's a different sign than the Ascendant, the zero point starts in the Twelfth. If it's the same sign as the Ascendant, it starts somewhere in the Eleventh. Look at the degree of the Ascendant again. Any forces within four degrees of this area constitute a conjunction aspect, a fusion of that force's attributes with The Act (and other properties innate to your State of Being). Each of these six aspects can be read as six types of interactions that forces have with each other, with the nodal axis, and with the compass points (ASC, IC, DESC, MC).

THE SIX MAJOR ASPECTS

These six aspects are called *conjunction, opposition, square, trine, sextile and quincunx*. There are far more than six aspects in the astrological language but these six are more than enough to get you started. Listed below are the specific degrees defining each aspect. Alongside each are the "orbs of influence" this astrologer permits for their authentication. These orbs might be considered on the tight side by some astrologers but I like them tight; it minimizes cheating and offers a more direct read of any chart's **primary geometry**.

CONJUNCTION: 0-4 degrees; *within 4 degrees orb*

OPPOSITION: 180 degrees; *within 6 degrees orb*

SQUARE: 90 degrees; *within 6 degrees orb*

TRINE: 120 degrees; *within 4 degrees orb*

SEXTILE: 60 degrees; *within 3 degrees orb*

QUINCUNX: 150 degrees; *within 3 degrees orb*

CONJUNCTIONS: *key words; intensity, synthesis.*

Whenever two or more forces coincide within this orb, they create a **new energy**. Your intuition and imagination are required to envision the combined effects of a fusing of two or more forces. Conjunctions comprise a chart's fusion *hot spots*, symbolizing intense, dynamic synthesis in the state they are in. Forces conjuncting any of the four compass points amplify that point's function ie., Sun conjunct Ascendant heightens self-expression. Two or more conjunctions in any chart signify an overall tendency of **amalgamation and novelty**; a talent for combining seemingly incongruent variables in original ways. These individuals are the synthesizers. Multiple conjunctions (three or more forces) also create what's called a "stellium effect." With this much concentration in one sign, consciousness transforms into the opposite sign and then, back again, ie., a stellium in Gemini fluctuates between itself and Sagittarius.

OPPOSITIONS: key words; energy flux, polarity

Forces opposing each other articulate a polarity, or two sides of a larger changing whole. A polarity does not convey a split as much as *a stretch*. Oppositions symbolize a dynamic that acts like an **energy generator**, compelling a flux between two opposite states and their various sets of forces. Oppositions fulfill a larger agenda of self-cohesion and act like slow-mo conjunctions. Conjunctions and oppositions share the common goal of creating a new energy; oppositions just do it much slower. Oppositions pulls forth whatever is being opposed. Oppositions amplify the experience of our contradictions. With two or more oppositions, complexity increases.

SQUARES: key words; tension, pressure, conflict

This highly dynamic angle creates enough *tension* as to require an outlet; the more squares, the more outlets needed. When forces share a square aspect with each other, they are at *cross purposes*. Yet, both points of a square reside in the same chart and represent living forces inhabiting the same body. Both points need to be dealt with on their own time, in their own way. *Pressure* increases as one side of the square is over-emphasized at the expense of the other side. Squares force our attention to areas of conflict and its resolution through its expression and transformation. Four or more squares in a chart reveals high-pressure tendencies. Squares can be likened to different children in the same family, each living according to their own rules and each requiring entirely different types of attention at different times.

TRINES: key words; flow, harmony, grace, ease

When forces trine each other, the ease by which they relate is often taken for granted. Like an unobstructed river of energy *flowing* between points, trines refer to the *grace* of natural talents. The *grace* of this aspect is neither dynamic nor passive but a harmonious flow between forces in the same elemental family (earth, water, fire and air trines). Grand trines (involving three forces in different signs but in the same element) can create an otherworldly quality in a person. Like a river running through a forest, it's easy to overlook how much energy is being moved.

TRINES, cont.

Earth trines (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn) instill material ease, as water trines (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces) carry emotional grace. Air trines (Gemini, Libra, Aquarius) quicken thought processes; fire trines (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) accelerate creative states. Without squares or oppositions, trines support the avoidance of conflict, pressure and stress so essential to the struggle to survive!

SEXTILES: key words; allegiance, agreement

Jody Forrest once described sextiles as "friends talking on the phone" and I must agree. There's something simultaneously comfortable and abstract about talking on the phone with friends. Sextiles provide a kind of *detached allegiance* between their respective points. It's as if they're constantly confirming what is already known between them. Both points stabilize each other. Sextiles aren't about intensity, flow, tension, or personal growth, as much as a *casual affirmation* between two or more forces. Sextiles also form a base for a yod, or "finger of god" configuration, when combined with two quincunxes.

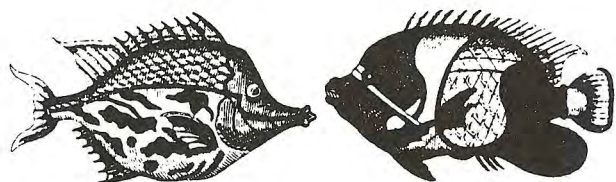
QUINCUNX: key words; catalyzation, catalyzed

This peculiar aspect sits just to the right or left of a direct opposition and is possessed of one-way energy lines, ie., there is a "quincunxer" and a "quincunxee." The quincunxer acts as a *catalyst* to the quincunxee, who undergoes an adjustment to *yield to the former*. To demonstrate this model, let the Ascendant be the quincunxee and the Eighth State governor, the quincunxer catalyst. Pick any sign to sit at the Ascendant (the quincunxer catalyst is one sign ahead of its opposite). Aries is quincunxed by Scorpio, Taurus/Sagittarius, and so on. The Eighth State of Surrender acts like "death" to the Ascendant, ego-death, insofar as it catalyzes *a state of surrender*. When facing the quincunxer catalyst, the sign on the Ascendant either yields and surrenders or, reacts with increasing anxiety and rigidifies. (For more in-depth study, read THE QUINCUNX & THE YOD; see Further Research).

Aspects as Energy-Leylines on the Map

Aspects symbolize communication lines between forces inherent to multidimensionality. Each aspect represents a line of energy; a lifeline, a communication line, a line of tension or flow. When combined with other energy lines, a webwork of energy lines is revealed crisscrossing your chart, not unlike the geomantic meridians interlacing the surface of our own planet, Earth. When these lines are drawn onto the map itself, a primary geometry emerges; *a central crystal*. Contemplate its design; there's no other chart exactly like it. This meditation is another way of intuitively absorbing and entering a chart. This more holistic approach can help whenever you've become too entangled in the seemingly endless astrological details of the charts. Look to the map's central crystal for its essential self-revealing design.

One way to symbolize the different aspects on your map is by drawing each of their lines with a different color ink pen. Select a color for each to convey the energy you personally detect about its nature. Read through these previous definitions several times over while looking at your own chart to notice any resonance you may start to have with them. Stay with the areas of your own direct resonance, of what effects you most personally. The inner guide of personal resonance is closer to your truth than anything written in this book. Or, any other. *Ultimately, the final interpretation is yours.*



The Past, Present & Future Life Paths of North & South Nodes

The symbol for both nodes is the same but they point in different directions: up and down. Their design is made up of a crescent attached to two small circles on each end. This approximates *a deep receptivity (large crescent) to relative wholeness (two small circles)*. The nodes articulate an individual's overall orientation in this lifetime; from past through the present into the future. The North Node always points up and refers to present-time challenges and future reception; the downward-pointing South Node signifies containment of past patterns of strength. They always in the opposite state and style of the other, creating what's called "the nodal axis."

The South Node is a highly magnetic "karmic" point, dense with the accumulation of early lifetime experiences, it also acts as a container for a virtual reservoir of past-life information. It is karmic insofar as the activities associated with the state and style it's in refer to the loose ends of unfinished business; where we come into this lifetime bearing so much given strength and knowledge, we trip over it if we don't find a way to relate it to the present-time. Fourth State &/or Cancer South Nodes have emphasized "family or mama" karma to work through and sort out; they know more about others' needs than their own. First State &/or Aries South Node are dealing with "ego" karma; ego-builders from way back. Libra South Nodes carry "relationship" karma; deep experience in revolving around the life of another. The South Node symbolizes where we're more developed than we're usually aware of; where we've become so enmeshed and identified we're often the last to know about it.

The North Node is a highly charged "dharmic" point, active with the challenges and struggles of realizing this life's destiny *as if for the very first time*. The North Node is rarely a place we are naturally adept and well-informed. As we rise to the occasion of embracing its adventure, the North Node area is capable of provoking increasing awareness of synchronicity and hard-earned excellence.

Southern Karma/Northern Dharma

The North Node is not unlike the north star as an orientation point to help guide us along the open seas, or deserts, of real life. A Taurus &/or Second State North Node learns to rely on moments of consistency to find its way. An Eleventh State &/or Aquarius North Node person can effectively enter society-at-large through enough self-detachment to be social. I tend to view the south node as a realm of adepthood; where real-time knowledge has accumulated from previous incarnations. The north node refers to what we are here to realize in the present life. When the south node is over-emphasized, a point of inertia develops that eventually immobilizes and traps our energy there. The nodal axis expresses a polarity through which consciousness can know itself as fate. The nodal axis symbolizes a kind of alchemical lab where opposite states and styles can be experienced as equally and driven to dynamic synthesis; that is the idea and the opportunity. The following examples demonstrate the dynamic polarity of each nodal axis, highlighting their *upsides* (when south node is balanced by north node) and *downsides* (when south node is over-emphasized at the cost of north node experience). The state each node is in informs us of the area of karma (south) or dharma (north) acted out; the styles refer to the specific paths involved.

ARIES (or 1st State) North Node

LIBRA (or 7th State) South Node:

upside: the intimacy adept; *downside:* hopelessly yearning for the dream relationship. Previous lifetimes were spent in meaningful partnerships and marriages; deep memories inform a notion that an ideal relationship is possible. The truth is, it's already happened; *been there, done that*. These individuals repeat a compulsive pursuit of lasting intimacy until they awaken to their dharma of self-expression in *the act of being themselves*. The Aries North Node area shows where these individuals must fight to be themselves and act out their unique singularity; *they are here to build an ego*. This nodal axis expresses a need to push past a previous life role as a planner and move towards front-line decision making processes. *Point of inertia:* all plans and no action; indecision; making relationships an ultimate end-all goal.

TAURUS (or 2nd State) North Node

SCORPIO (or 8th State) South Node:

upside: an adept of change; *downside:* flails about in unending processes without materializing much end product. Past incarnations spent in high-flux, turbulence states have gifted these individuals with an uncanny insight into the cyclic nature of life and a deep stamina for enduring real life changes. The Taurus North Node shows where trust and self-worth must be earned to counter-balance the more complex and suspicious Scorpio karma stemming from a fear of having the rug unexpectedly pulled out from beneath. There is often a necessary struggle to define personal values through some experience of propriety; *a need to know what can be called one's own*. This nodal axis is earning the power to stabilize and refine what was once volatile, raw & chaotic. *Point of inertia:* creating change or crisis for the sake of change or crisis

GEMINI (or 3rd State) North Node

SAGITTARIUS (or 9th State) South Node:

upside: intuitive adepts; *downside:* alienation stemming from knowing far more than they can communicate. Past lives spent in wilderness, or set apart from civilization, have infused a wild and restless spirit in these individuals; *they are wise beyond words*. The Gemini North Node area points to where these individuals must struggle to stay associated if they are to break through the effects of past life social alienation. They are learning new ways to keep learning, especially with translating their experience into comprehensible symbols and messages; communication becomes a survival need. This nodal axis is exploring the power of language for encoding and articulating its intuitive depths. *Point of inertia:* blind certainty, dogmatic assumptions about life in general and the thoughts of others

CANCER (or 4th State) North Node

CAPRICORN (or 10th State) South Node:

upside: status adepts; *downside:* loss of soulful connections. Past-life memory of holding positions of great influence and power may have led these individuals to falsely assume an inflated self-importance in this lifetime; *"don't they realize who I am?"* With a knack for organizing their lives and the lives of others, they bear *papa karma*.

CANCER NORTH NODE, cont.

They can become bitterly disappointed with the shortcomings of others until these same flaws are faced within themselves. This can occur in painful confrontations with loneliness, humiliation and falls from high places (status-wise). The Cancer North Node refers to the area of greatest necessity. This nodal axis is being exposed to the emotional realities of human dependencies. With a deep history of being a top dog that needs nobody, current life challenges draw opportunities for facing their frailties and their personal needs for sustenance. *Point of inertia: seeking status, fame & public regard as ultimate goals.*

LEO (or 5th State) North Node

AQUARIUS (or 11th State) South Node:

upside: social adepts; *downside:* overwhelmed by intricate social entanglements, they lose their unique voice. Past incarnations were immersed in privileged sociopolitical and scientific orders haunting these individuals with impressions that they no longer fit into society; *they're born misfits*. With a highly elitist attitude, they're not terribly impressed with most people (who stand little chance of measuring up to their jaded expectations). The Leo North Node shows where and how they can reinvent themselves through the self-love so critical for exciting creative states; *creation loves its creators*. This nodal axis is rediscovering the wonder of creation as a basis for being in the world *but not of it*. *Point of inertia: excessive daydreaming about future, over-emphasizing areas of superiority, too much watching*

VIRGO (or 6th State) North Node

PISCES (or 12th State) South Node:

upside: mystical chaos adepts; *downside:* they become obscured by pursuits holding little value in the workaday world. Previous lives immersed in reflection gift these individuals with profound receptivity for the unspeakable essences of life's mysteries. Informed by a deep naivete to local human customs, they stray into the village from the dark woods, or from some medieval monastery, gazing at the rituals of civilization as if through a window. Not ready to participate yet curious about how it all works, *they are natural tinkerers*. In context to the routines of village life, their own lives are often scattered and chaotic.

VIRGO NORTH NODE, cont.

The Virgo North Node points to where they must struggle to implement enough order to organize their lives. This nodal axis is driven to discover out how things work and how to remain a functional part of a larger whole; often, by devising work that serves a higher mission. *Point of inertia: useless projects*

LIBRA (or 7th State) North Node

ARIES (or 1st State) South Node:

upside: selfhood adepts; *downside:* vanity, nonstop ego and the fear of losing the self in intimacy. Past incarnations achieved such high levels of ego-development that these individuals have inherited a ready-built ego easily over-emphasized as egocentricity. Their self-confidence can be assuring and/or obnoxious depending on how awake they are to the needs of others. They often attract weaker-willed "satellites" into intimate relations as part of a larger unconscious process of frustrating their own egos. By attracting lesser egos, they are forced to confront their own shortcomings through their partners. This nodal axis of Self & Other is in the process of redefining self in context to relationship, rather than to a previous mode of self-reflective narcissism. *Point of inertia: over-emphasizing themselves, ie., the non-stop ego*

SCORPIO (or 8th State) North Node

TAURUS (or 2nd State) South Node:

upside: stability adepts; *downside:* inertia resulting from amassing too much security for its own sake. These individuals are accustomed to owning things or at least, clinging fast to tried and true (proven) values; *they make great business partners and accountants*. Previous lives were invested in building a world both safe and familiar that often extends into a sheltered childhood in the present life. As a result, they tend to be content with what is *known and familiar* until boredom hits. Like a happy frog in the bottom of a well, they are oblivious to the larger world beyond until the greater storms of life fill that well and float the frog up to the vistas above. The Scorpio North Node is where meaningful transformation takes place.

SCORPIO NORTH NODE, cont.

With this nodal axis, the forces of change seem to conspire to upturn the familiar world, compelling a continual reassessment of values. The transformations they undergo, from the most trivial to the most profound, are almost always purposeful. *Point of inertia: clinging to the known*

SAGITTARIUS (or 9th State) North Node

GEMINI (or 3rd State) South Node:

upside: concept adepts; *downside:* entanglement in the minds and problems of others. Lifetimes were immersed in the intellectual study of multiple disciplines to establish associations. Often bearing the gift of gab, these are "idea" people and networkers constantly gathering data & trivia; as a result, *they can be incurable flirts and gossips*. The Sagittarius North node points to where they can satisfy their ongoing hunger for context. Big Picture visions unify the details. These conceptual adepts can learn the most by teaching; many become instructors. This nodal axis is in the process of learning the difference between information and wisdom. By getting past their ideas and concepts, they can eventually open their minds to direct intuitive contact with the underlying forces, or principles, governing existence. *Point of inertia: thinking and talking too much*

CAPRICORN (or 10th State) North Node

CANCER (or 4th State) South Node:

upside: nurturing adepts; *downside:* over-dependence on obsolete parental/familial need structures. Numerous lifetimes invested in nourishing others and holding families together have burdened these individuals with *mama karma*. In the present lifetime, overwhelming family ties can inhibit emotional growth with deep-rooted guilt complexes that trigger resentment (from an irrational sense of responsibility to others); emotionally immature, they're "late bloomers". Through the Capricorn North Node, they can rise above their sticky past by standing on their own two feet and clarifying their personal goals, which often means breaking from the fold. This nodal axis strives to attain meaningful goals that reflect principles that support individual dignity and self-respect. Oftentimes, this means realizing some mastery over the emotions. *Point of inertia: emotional addictions; over-indulging in others' pain*

AQUARIUS (or 11th State) North Node

LEO (or 5th State) South Node:

upside: creative drama adepts; *downside:* a self-absorbed infatuation with their own creations. These individuals come into this lifetime with a talent for living in a world of their own making. By having identified with larger creative forces, they struggle with ego-attachment and often remain as children most of their lives. In previous lives, they've achieved high levels of self-empowerment allowing them to either empower others or, regress into self-aggrandizement. The Aquarius North Node refers to the area where they can develop more self-detachment through socialization and teamwork processes. These adepts are trying to see beyond themselves. This nodal axis articulates a rite of passage from an imaginary world into the out-there real world of humanity. *Point of inertia: anti-social attitudes, self-preoccupation and loneliness.*

PISCES (or 12 State) North Node

VIRGO (or 6th State) South Node:

upside: analytical adepts; *downside:* anal-retentive preoccupation with categorizing everything. Lifetimes have been organized around systematizing information for maximum efficiency. As competent doers, they experience disorientation whenever they're not being useful or doing work. They are often workaholics stalking the dream job on the ever-expanding employment horizon. Vexed by situations they can neither control nor comprehend, their evolution is triggered by the unavoidable chaos of real life. If they refuse to relax their "function fixation", these individuals can suffer health complications. The Pisces North Node area can inspire a creative withdrawal from familiar but oppressive categories and an exploration of mystery. This nodal axis delineates a journey away from civilization and into the unknown wilderness beyond; either psychologically and/or literally. *Point of inertia: paralysis of analysis, loss of innocence, workaholic*

When Forces Conjoin the Nodes

The next step is to read the nodal axis in context to the states it inhabits. As with other interpretive tasks, use your imagination to synthesize meanings from their combinations. For example, a Taurus North node in the Seventh State might imply the search for constancy (Taurus) in intimacy (Seventh State). The First State Scorpio South Node is learning to ease up on self-transformation, as there is already enough development here. Certain contrary combinations, like a Cancer North Node in the Tenth State, convey greater contradiction and require more interpretive flexibility to translate accurately.

Any force conjuncting the South Node is going to be amplified, exaggerated and otherwise emphasized as a resource of accumulated knowledge and experience. Often times, it's as if the individual doesn't comprehend the use of this force in the current lifetime without considerable adjustment and personal reorientation, as if they are *being that force*. The south node is a highly charged karmic point articulating specific unfinished business. For example, with Saturn conjunct South Node the sense of personal authority is so pronounced to the individual there is no question about his or her authority and expertise, even though little or no sign of that has been gathered from the present lifetime experience. Adjustments start occurring as this assumption collides with present-time interactions with others. With Mercury conjunct South Node, the conceptual mind seeks integration as a learning tool instead of an end in itself. When the South node conjuncts Pluto, a redefinition of power is essential to minimize repeating previous political errors. When the Sun conjuncts the South Node, the individual learns to rest assured in their well-developed being rather than over-emphasize ego by trying to prove they have one. When forces conjunct the North Node, they are sometimes felt as being almost out of reach. Other times, these forces can tyrannize the individual who gets "stuck" in his or her North Node in a non-stop, exhausting growth period. In any case, forces joining this challenge point spur an individual towards horizons previously untraveled.

The Three Energy Modes of THE FIVE ELEMENTS

Traditional astrology recognizes the quaternity of four elements (FIRE, EARTH, AIR and WATER). Later in this chapter I'll introduce a fifth element (AETHER). For now, we'll study four elements and their three energetic modes of expression. The three modes are called *cardinal* (or dynamic), *fixed* (concentrated) and *mutable* (circulating); they correspond roughly to the variations energy takes in its *positive* (cardinal), *negative* (fixed) and *neutral* (mutable) modes. Every style combines an element and a mode. ARIES, cardinal fire; TAURUS, fixed earth; GEMINI, mutable air, Etc. Memorizing these combinations is a good way to start unlocking insights to their innate meanings.

The cardinal mode is that frequency energy takes in its most outgoing and radiant expression. Like fireworks exploding in the sky (Aries) or a gushing geyser (Cancer) or expanding cumulus clouds (Libra) or the slow formation of mountains (Capricorn), cardinal energy expands with primordial momentum in all directions at once. As such it refers to the source of the powers of an element. *ARIES is the source of the powers of Fire, CANCER is the source of the powers of Water, LIBRA is the source of the powers of Air and CAPRICORN is the source of the powers of Earth.* Cardinal energy gives us our "go-getting" power to start things up and get them going. Excessive cardinal energy can be "pushy", as much as its absence needs to be jump started.

Fixed energy is concentrated force. Its function is to hold power; to contain and focus. As a result, fixed forces are power points and focusing agents. TAURUS knows itself through the concentration of sensation (Earth); LEO focuses and directs intuition (Fire); SCORPIO condenses feelings into the force of passion (Water) and AQUARIUS fixates attention (Air). Fixed points help us endure intensities for maintaining ourselves amidst change. When there are six or more fixed forces, a stubbornness and resolve surfaces. With little or no fixed points, there's often difficulty with concentration, stamina and holding power.

*The mutable mode of a force breaks energy up and distributes it. The influence of mutable forces circulates energy and acts much like a wind spreading pollen over a field of flowers. GEMINI (mutable Air) circulates concepts to stimulate associations. VIRGO (mutable Earth) busies itself with organizing deeds for accomplishing tasks. SAGITTARIUS (mutable Fire) follows its fleeting intuitive hunches wherever they go. PISCES (mutable Water) merges into empathic connection with others to sustain unity. Mutable points are flexible, malleable and adjustable. In abundance (six or more mutables), the circulating effects acts on us and others like the whirlwind aura of a human hurricane. With the absence of mutable, we lose flexibility; with too much, we become scattered. What of charts with no Earth or Water or Fire or Air ? I tend to think that a chart void of a particular element signals a profound need for that element. For example, those with no Earth may attract "earthy" people into their lives to experience that element vicariously. Desperate for experience of the material plane, "Earth zeros" often end up knowing more about it by the process of meeting their own needs for it. I suspect this goes for the other elements, as well; *maybe it's true that we teach what we need to learn.**

Traditional astrology is built on the quaternity of the four elements. A fifth element, AETHER, is not mentioned in most astrological texts yet is almost always included in spiritual alchemy treatises (read *ALCHEMY* by Titus Burckhardt). For our purposes here -- *to sharpen our interpretive skills* -- I suggest we relate with aether as an invisible symbol unnecessary to the chart itself yet utterly vital to your interpretive mind. I propose that aether symbolize the consciousness of the observer; the astrologer. The element of aether is not associated with any of the styles or modes. Yet an understanding of its function seems critical, if only to disrupt the *illusion of wholeness* perpetrated by thinking in fours, ie., using the staid, stable and very square number "4" as a model for wholeness. Astrology does not contain any real answers or ultimate meanings. *Answers are anti-improvisational sedatives that eventually put you to sleep.*

Symbolically, the metaphor of the number "4" lends itself naturally to false assumptions surrounding the notion of wholeness, ie., like a four-legged table, it is set and stable. The "4" metaphor provides the mind with a "pat" ontology, a "square" definition of reality when we know damn well that a real live, changing whole refuses to be boxed into any closed system. And, a quaternity can easily represent a boxed, closed system. A four-fold model can trick the mind into believing it can impose fixed structures onto fluid states when, in truth, it cannot. Life prevails beyond our attempts to impose mental constructs over its fluid and dynamic forces.

The Value of Discontinuity

The notion of discontinuity creates a quandary for any conceptual mind that pivots on certainty and finding reasons and answers for everything. Discontinuity in consciousness, however, can act as a liberating force to intuition and then, enliven the interpretive process. How ? When studying the four elements and the astrological signs (styles), keep a space in your mind for the fifth invisible element of aether. Let aether symbolize the properties of consciousness itself. Conceptual mind easily falls in love with the idea of having everything figured out; it would trade the search for a unified field theory for a unified field answer in a wink, if it could. The function of the fifth element of aether is to *proffer conceptual discontinuity where excessive constancy has hypnotized us into believing the illusion of our certainty.* The function of discontinuity is to disrupt and break up the "quaternity trance" of any mind absorbing "in fours." Why do this ? To *alleviate the suffering* of a mind too sure of its own assumptions. If this notion of discontinuity doesn't make sense right now, return to it later after studying the four elements more closely.

Fire... The direct intuitive, neural contact with the spirit or energetic level of any given reality. The impulses sent by the brain through the Central Neural System to the muscles which activate motion and action. The heat and light given off of anything that is burning. The subtle yet potent force and quality of attention. The joy of the will to survive, thrive and create. *The dimension of height.*

Earth...Gravity. The dry and well-defined sphere of sensation. The contact point with mass at the level of mass. The densest degree consciousness expresses. The hard knowledge of physical limitations, mortality and materiality. The fuel that fire burns, consumes, and transforms. *The dimension of existence itself.*

Air...The mental realm of thoughts and concepts. Mobile and associative. What we breathe in and out; what relates inside/outside. What seeks external forms to be seen; the breeze seen through rippling meadows. Highly reactive to the effects of Fire, Earth and Water. *The dimension of time, space and the movement of thought.*

Water...What follows the path of least resistance. Fluid and soothing. The emotions and how we feel ourselves and others. Vulnerable to impressions. Source of organic life. Slippery, wet and elusive. Adaptable; depending on temperature (Fire and Air), it changes form as steam, gas, vapor, precipitation, liquid, and solid (ice). Relatedness. *The dimension of depth.*

Aether...Consciousness itself. The originating source from which the four elements are derived. Invisible, formless and tasteless. Without color, texture or substance. Beyond time and space. Non-local all-pervasive, nowhere and everywhere. *The fifth dimension of the invisible witness.*

The Five Elements as Evolutionary States

The four elements also correspond to Jung's psychological typology: earth, sensation; water, feeling; air, thinking; and fire, intuitive. (Let aether symbolize consciousness itself, an element often omitted or taken for granted in traditional psychological models.) The twelve states are related to the four elements. The chart can be divided into four sets of three states each to convey: fire states (1, 5, 9), earth states (2, 6, 10), air states (3, 7, 11) and water states (4, 8, 12). The fifth element of aether rules consciousness during the moment of interpretation. Each of the five elements refer to a different level of evolutionary process; all five levels operate simultaneously at differing degrees of development and depth.

Whenever a state contains more than two or more forces, we can say its elemental evolutionary level is emphasized, ie., with Sun, Mercury and South Node in the Second State of Security; the "earth" level is pronounced. If Pluto, Moon and Uranus are in the Ninth Intuitive State, the "fire" level is more marked. If there is a multiple conjunction of forces in the Eleventh State of the Community, then the properties of "air" predominate. If all these Eleventh State forces are in fire signs, we have "hot air" or, the forced circulation of heat. Once again, it is up to you to interpret the synthesis of the various combinations in each chart. You can expand your interpretive skills by detecting where most of the action is, ie., *which evolutionary states on the map contain the most forces?*

The Natural States (4, 8, 12): WATER

These refer to innate realities functioning independently of our conscious ego or personal will: the mechanism of human habits, instinct, the biological animal realm, cellular intelligence, body wisdom, emotions, feelings, and all subjective subconscious phenomena. A strong emphasis in the natural denotes empathic kinship with Life. The natural states express the underlying basis that informs the spiritual states. Question: Asks, "WHAT?"

The Spiritual States (1, 5, 9): FIRE

These states convey the spark of individuality emerging from direct, creative response to the natural: birth of being and ego; instantaneous, intuitive knowing; all forms of creativity, especially improvisation; fiery, electrical and energizing; initiative and the spectrum of will. A strong spiritual emphasis denotes a development and expression of identity. Fire states greatly influence the evolution of the mental and comparative and relative states of air. Question: Asks, "WHO?"

The Relative States (3, 7, 11): AIR

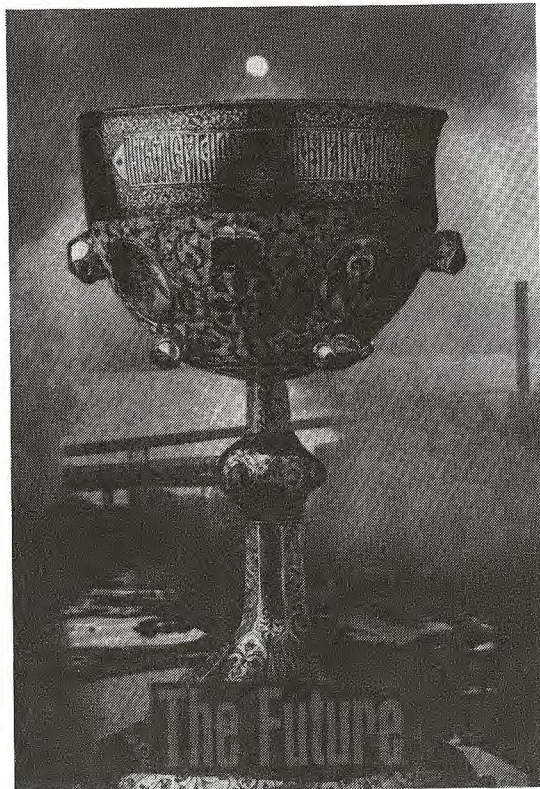
These areas express the mental realm of perception: of concepts (3), of another (7) and of social roles, groups and ethics (11). Conceptual mind functions with duality. Intellect draws up arbitrary divisions between subject and object ("observer" & "observed") to set up comparison and deduction.

The Timing of Change

How Transits Work

Mapping transits is the work of predictive astrology. If you already know what transits are and know how to use them, feel free to skip this page. Transits are astrology's way of addressing past, present and future tendencies of how forces (planets) act on your personal life via your natal chart. Transits don't map absolute realities but tendencies. Transits don't tell you exactly what will happen on such and such a day but they can inform us of what forces are active and the overall climate during a particular time period; the various pressures, tensions, energies, etc. Studying transits that have already happened -- *days, months or many years ago* -- can offer insights into the outcomes of past actions.

To find your transits, you will need a book called an *ephemeris* for the 20th and 21st century (I suggest those programmed by Neil F. Michelsen). If you haven't used an ephemeris, open it up to any page and you'll notice boxed areas containing the year, month and days of that month. The top horizontal edge of each box is bordered with the glyphs of the planetary forces; the far left edge, a vertical column shows the days. The numbers down each of the vertical column (beneath each planetary glyph) denotes the degree and style that force is in during that day. Now, turn to the page marking the present-time month and year. Look at the positions of the planets; the sign and the degree they're in. Do any of them come within three degrees to conjuncting any of the forces in your birth chart? If so, you are now undergoing a transit by conjunction. Look for other aspects to your natal placements; oppositions, squares and trines. Now turn ahead to a page marking a future month or year to see what transits are forthcoming. Once you can read the ephemeris and begin observing the real-time effects of transits in your life, it is possible to start experimenting with *conscious coincidence*, or synchronicity by coinciding certain activities that seem to naturally synchronize with the forces that be.



What follows are observations made based on certain reoccurring patterns I've seen during the transits of personal and transpersonal forces. An important note. I do not believe transits represent any real source of fate or destiny; Jupiter or Pluto does not make us do anything. Our life does not stop when Saturn sits on our Ascendant though we may feel as if it does. Mercury retrograde doesn't screw up our communication processes, though our lazy minds may wish to think so.

*Transits are **not** part of some system of causes that we can blame our problems and successes on. More likely, transits map the **timing of changes**.*

As for the causes... the cause and source of everything is unknown; life's a mystery at best, don't you know? The phenomena of transits marks the shifting borders between the "symbolic" and "the real" where they occasionally overlap. When Jupiter enters our Seventh State, we may meet a lifemate. Or, learn something about intimacy all by ourselves. When Saturn conjuncts natal Saturn, life may seem to be writing out a series of reality checks on a bank of limited experience. As Neptune conjuncts natal Jupiter, we might be inspired by mystical revelation. No matter what happens, remember: astrology is just a language articulating the psyche's interaction with living forces of nature. Astrology is not a force or a source but a language for mapping these realities.



Personal Transits

SUN...

The Sun moves a degree each day, taking a year to traverse the full chart bringing light, heat and vitality to each state it passes through. The Sun energizes forces it touches with gentle radiance and warmth. (to map your annual solar cycles, read Robert Cole's BOOK OF HOUSES).

MOON...

The Moon takes 2-3 days in each sign and passes around the entire map in about a month or so nudging the tides of emotion, mood and feeling tones along its way. The moon reminds us of our needs in the area it moves through while personalizing the natal forces it contacts. Note the Moon's passage over the four compass points (ASC, IC, DESC, MC) to sense its effects. Those with a strongly aspected natal Moon may be more sensitized to lunar transits. The Moon occasionally enters a period (from a few minutes to a few hours) where it wobbles between signs in a kind of limbo zone. Traditional astrology calls this "void of course" moon and warns us to avoid important contracts, meetings and agreements. Test this for yourself. To me, it has proven a silly superstition for the most part. Interim "void zones" can be highly creative transitions charged with potential for infusing new directions. If you must avoid the void, avoid the void, of course, moon.

MERCURY..

Mercury rides close to the Sun, taking about a year to circle the map stimulating mental levels of whatever state it's in and tickling the forces it touches to speak forth. Mercury governs reading, writing and arithmetic so transits relate to speaking engagements, literary work and/or number-crunching. (See Further Research, MERCURY RETROGRADE)

VENUS...

Venus rides near the Sun and Mercury, and passes through all the styles every 10-14 months softening harsh edges and soothing ruffled feathers in the state it traverses, while bringing grace and beauty to whatever it touches. Under Venus transits, existing relationships flow a little more gracefully and allow for subtle nuances of love to emerge.

MARS...

Mars takes about two years to circle the chart and delivers a swift kick to the natal forces it contacts, briefly catalyzing short-term action. Like a jump-start to a dead battery, it gets things going. Mars transits can spark aggressive and combative tendencies if such feelings are already close to the surface but they are not likely to erupt in physical violence without the thrust of greater forces like Uranus or Pluto and, sometimes, Saturn. The martial force helps break up minor inertia congesting our ability to act in the state it's visiting.

JUPITER...

Jupiter takes twelve years to encircle the Sun, bringing a fresh breeze (perception) into the states and forces it frequents; Jupiter tends to expand our perception of whatever it touches. This does not always happen by itself (as it can with Uranus, Neptune or Pluto). Personal decisions must be made, especially around ethics and learning. When Jupiter passes through the Second State there is a better good chance of earning more income IF you are making money doing what you believe in. The more opportunities you create during a Jupiter transit, the more Jupiter tends to amplify those efforts by attracting opportunities. Think of Jupiter transits as short-term grace periods. Rarely lasting longer than a month, they almost always bring with them a certain buoyancy. Jupiter can also be disruptive to the extent the area it touches is not sufficiently fueled by your faith. If you suffer a lack of faith in yourself when transiting Jupiter conjuncts your Sun, you may attract a "teacher" who questions the validity of your negative beliefs and self-negating opinions. All Jupiter intends to do is open windows and provide a fresh view. Its transits are usually not "out of control" as much as proof of what you are now ready to see.

SATURN...

Saturn takes about 29 years to traverse a full cycle around the map and tends to slow down our experience of time during its most direct transits. Saturn acts as a kind of pressure to the state and forces it impacts, as if acting out the *consolidating effects of crystallization*. When our awareness of limitations increase, our awareness of space diminishes; we feel cramped.

Depending directly upon the effects of our personal responses and choices, this can either become a highly productive time or a devastatingly grueling one. Or both. To put the Saturnine force to work we must endure both conditions: we can succeed IF we are willing to *struggle and apply great personal effort and discipline to the tasks at hand*. Saturn rewards the effects of hard earned labor. The best advice I can give during Saturn transits is to work extra hard on finishing *unfinished business*; tie up loose ends and clean up your act in whatever state Saturn traverses. Saturn transits usually involve deeper initiations into the realm of manifestation. Whatever Saturn touches is checked for its manifestation validity, not its "potential" validity. If Saturn conjuncts natal Venus your current patterns of intimacy receive a reality check. If a relationship exists more in potential than in manifest form — *in conformity to your needs* — then, it may be difficult for it to survive with Saturn around, unless it takes form. The Saturn force tends to crack, or fracture, whatever is brittle and/or halfway committed. Saturn transits can also galvanize longterm commitment in areas already aligning with real-time needs; if your commitment comes through, so does Saturn. This is the beauty and grace of Saturn; it simply renders "reality" more obvious. Saturn's droll sense of humor rests unconcerned with dreams, hopes and desires if they are not somehow connected to the manifest world. The force of Saturn acts as if it were a kind of Anti-Ambiguity truth serum, pushing us to stop sitting on the fence. Saturn loves choices and statements made about where we stand. What sometimes appears to be a "cold, cruel world" is actually the accumulated effects of our own personal irresponsibilities. Some realities we shape and others, we are shaped by. Saturn transits can demonstrate the law of cause and effect. I prefer to think of Saturn as the good guy dressed in black. Or the gruff Zen monk who knocks sleeping meditators on the head with his stick. Above all, Saturn is a humanizing force exposing frailty, flaws, defects, and errors in judgment. Nobody is perfect; we make mistakes. Knowing this helps the breakdown of obsolete, preconceived notions about how things work in the world of time, space and knowledge. In this way, Saturn acts as a gateway to a more full-bodied engagement with the limitations necessary to human embodiment.

Transpersonal Transits

The Timing and Movement of Outside Shocks

As we learned earlier (see THE FORCES), transpersonal forces deliver three kinds of shock: sudden (Uranus), diffusive (Neptune) and deep (Pluto). Uranus transits can be integrated directly through activities engaging the Fifth Creative State (opposite to the Eleventh State, traditionally associated with Uranus). Neptune transits can be personally assimilated by entering the Sixth State of Employment and making oneself useful to the community in a job, that doubles as a vehicle for a higher mission (Neptune is associated with the Twelfth Subconscious States). One can restabilize oneself after Pluto transits by returning to more basic values of self-preservation, as typified by the Second State of Security (Pluto's natural residency is the Eighth State of Surrender). Before exploring the effects of these three transpersonal transits, a word or two about Chiron...

COMET CHIRON...

The effects of these transits seems to depend on how much natal Chiron is integrated in the personal life. Acting as if it were an intermediary "relay switch" between Saturn and Uranus, Chiron also transfers information and energy between personal and transpersonal realms. As such, I think that without a strong personal integration of natal Saturn and Uranus, we may as well skip Chiron altogether. There are, of course, exceptions, ie., where natal Chiron conjuncts such highly personal points as the Ascendant, Moon, Sun, Mercury, Mars and the South Node. The following notes, then, are for the adventurous who have found it in themselves to participate more consciously as a force of subversion. As the forces represented by Saturn and Uranus are embodied, I've seen how Chiron transits can trigger small but specific impacts on the erotic nature. Instances of kundalini sexuality, neuro-tantra, electromagnetic rapture, chaotic sex might describe transiting Chiron's effects. How these aroused states are directed seems partially determined by the extent natal Saturn has been integrated.

CHIRON, cont.

If a sexual morality has formed, then the Chirotic forces find their expression within ethical sexual conduct. If a social sense of duty has been established, the Chirotic force can begin healing others. If Saturn's state has been structured around creativity, then Chiron can be channeled into artistic outlets. Otherwise, it's best not to concern ourselves with Chiron transits until the bridge between soul (Uranus) and world (Saturn) has been built and trodden upon many times over so as to assure its resiliency under heavy traffic.

URANUS...

difficult to predict, these transits deliver unexpected and sudden change. From the shattering disruption of routines to exhilarating liberation, the autonomous force of Uranus displays a wide spectrum of influence. The effects vary depending on the degree of autonomy already integrated in the forces and states Uranus impacts. The intent of Uranian force seems to be the administration of sudden shock, testing each area it contacts for its innate autonomy. What do we mean by "innate autonomy?" Uranus tends to fracture and shatter those patterns acting as a force of oppression on our lives. For example: When transiting Uranus passes over the Nadir, any domestic situation (family, homesite, etc.) inhibiting self-government may be subject to sudden shock; Uranus is "telling" us that it's time to redefine our homelife to conform to greater freedom. When transiting Uranus conjuncts natal Venus oppressive, routine-dulled relationships and patterns of intimacy are tested for mutual autonomy.

It seems that all Uranus "wants" us to realize is how free we already are; not how free we "could be" or "should be" or "would be" if only this, that or the other happened. Its primary intent is to leave us the undeniable knowledge of our emancipation from ties binding us by the ignorance of our birthright as free human beings. Uranus transits seem synchronized to test areas where we have forgotten this truth and/or are in need of a jolt of recognition to wake up to it. Common side-effects of Uranus transits include the breakdown of saturnine routines that may be effective yet often boring; overly organized and dead in the water.

URANUS cont.

Uranus can leave us feeling ecstatic about living again, especially insofar as we're willing to let go of our own attachments to plans and take that intuitive leap into greater unknowns. The transpersonal force of Uranus cannot be controlled or directed yet, it can be surfed like a wave; our only "choice" seems to be our willingness to let go and roll in with the forces. There is a "disconnect" period resulting from Uranus' sudden shock, a gap, between old patterns and the potential of the new. This gap offers a wild opportunity to experiment with new ways of acting and taking initiative (with transits to Mars) or previously unexplored beliefs (with Jupiter) or new feelings (the Moon). Uranus expedites whatever it touches, causing it to suddenly vibrate at a higher frequency than before. To stabilize these higher levels, just adjust your current vibration to coincide more with Uranus; permit more uncertainty. This force seems to have an intermittent (on again, off again) quality to it, making it all but impossible to track; it comes and goes as it wills. When it does come, it is often so swift and instantaneous...no, abrupt...that it seems more accurate to talk about its effects in retrospect. Things happen exceedingly fast with Uranus around. Godspeed.

Sometimes, during Uranus transits, information is processed so much more rapidly than usual it's as if the universe is slamdunking years of living into several months or weeks; processing input as soon as it comes in, running as fast as you can to stay in the same place. Uranus and Aquarius are associated with the Eleventh Community state. In the event of Too Much Energy, it can be beneficial to be involved in some form of group effort or collective process. This helps the newly activated Central Neural System circulate the shock of freedom through others. As Uranus is related to collective shifts, Uranus transits often prefer expression in a social context. Perhaps this force requires multiple mediums for its circulation and transmission. Like the other transpersonal transits, these can interface personal and collective history and create moments in time where, as an individual, we become part of history in the making.

URANUS cont.

To the degree ego attempts to resist the Uranian force (by refusing to let go of restrictive patterns), is the extent certain negative symptoms can arise "out of the blue," as if from nowhere: nervousness, irritation, anxiety, nervous twitches, short-term memory loss, muscle spasms, intermittent loss of motor control, headaches, stroke, epilepsy, and other ambiguous "nervous disorders" of the brain. Uranus works like electricity. If inertia, or resistance, blocks the flow of current then a kind of short-circuit can occur. The human brain is a profoundly mysterious creature; some say it is an alien organ. It seems that the brain is the only organ that responds as sensitively to the mystery of electricity, governed by the transpersonal force of Uranus.

NEPTUNE...

This transpersonal force works as gradually and pervasively as Uranus "behaves" suddenly and without apparent warning. Neptune tends to dissolve whatever is ego-based; it's an ego-solvent. This force gently undermines and unwinds self-centered motivation (when it aspects Mars), egocentric thinking (Mercury) and self-absorbed emotional moods (Moon). Its intent seems to be the spiritualization of whatever it touches by collapsing anything that does not serve a higher cause than itself. To the degree there is resistance to this dissolving, this falling apart, Neptune's force unleashes "clouds of confusion, disorientation and muddled chaos..." as it continues its work despite our resistances. As a transpersonal force, Neptune is not subject to ego control or comprehension. We can not adjust to the Neptune effect by trying figure it out; that's when the confusion starts and how it is maintained. Alignment with the diffusive shock of Neptune can occur by extending your faith in unknowns and intuitive process. Clarity, reason and perspective are often in suspense during Neptune transits. When there is no light to guide us, feel your way through the dark. Neptune's effects sensitize us to unknowns. With Mercury, it is showing the intellect the wonder of psychic perception. With Venus, it is revealing the grandeur, and sometimes personal catastrophe, of transcendental love.

NEPTUNE, cont.

With Jupiter, Neptune can elicit genuine mystical revelation and visions. Neptune is not success-oriented in the Saturnine way. Its measure of effectiveness does not correspond to advancement on the material plane but with deepening awareness of immaterial values. Neptune usually only shows up when the forces and states it touches have reached their apex of egocentric and materialistic fixation. Neptune subtly dismantles our self-isolating pretensions as "creators" by serving the principle of Unity. Under Neptune's sway, consciousness returns to more primal states of receptivity. To the extent we've been "avoiding the void", then these transits can act as gateways to the abyss; initiations to the Temple of Nuit, or the Illuminated Gate of the Void. In these transits, a rigid ego can suffer disillusionment and disintegration as it grows more impressionable to the beyond; the spiritual.

These transits can also yield an ocean's share of delusional assumptions and breath-taking illusory beauty. This force symbolizes the far-reaches of our solar system and is attuned to genuinely weird extraterrestrial intelligences. Neptune knows diddly-squat about mundane realities, like paying the rent, eating nutritious foods, keeping to schedules and other survival priorities. In fact, sometimes it arrives to make a temporary mess of these things. Now, this doesn't mean our lives immediately go downhill whenever Neptune comes to town. It might, however, imply that we'll go down on our knees, whether in downright exasperation or quiet gratitude. Neptune shows us the entropic transience of life; lust to dust, and passion to ashes. With Neptune, we are never sure about the nature of what is happening and that is precisely the point. The moment we become too certain is when delusion takes hold. Neptune might call this "suffering the illusion of our certainty." To the extent the genuinely indistinct and undefinable can remain that way, without the ego becoming too anxious, is when Neptune's blessings and gifts transpire. As with genuine out-of-body experiences, we are never the same after being touched by the dreaming force of Neptune. The dreambody [see THE FORCES, Neptune] is often activated into conscious awareness during these transits.

NEPTUNE, cont.

Night dreams may grow especially vivid, moving the dream ego through terrains previously unexplored. We may wish to keep a dream journal to help integrate our dreamlife with our "waking" life. We may be moved to enter some form of spiritual discipline or study a suitable psychic technology to help find a place in our lives for emerging intuitive sensibilities. Remember, Neptune refers to Twelfth State realities. As with any of the transpersonal planetary transits, it is our responsibility (Saturn) to discover and/or invent ways to reconnect extraterrestrial experiences back to terrestrial time, space and knowledge. Without this bridge, the impact of these "alien" forces can make it all but impossible for those around us (not to mention ourselves) to relate with who we are becoming. Neptune delivers vintage chaos. It's up to each individual to assimilate its "X" Factor into their way of thinking...their conceptual framework. Neptune is about respecting and honoring unknowns. Neptune transits often befuddle the mind, even if Mercury isn't directly aspected. Before we can get our precious yet disoriented intellects out of hock from the astral pawn shop, it must be informed of the visiting abyss from the universe next door.

PLUTO...

perhaps the most far-reaching in their effects, Pluto transits deliver deep shocks to the whole system. Once again, the word "shock" is not being used in the common, and all-too-popular, negative vernacular. Shock implies the emergence of an internal state, and its corresponding external circumstances, existing beyond the control and comprehension of ego. Shock disconnects ego from self-imposed buffers and habits to realizing the mystery of life as it actually is. To the degree one is ego-identified during such a shock, is the extent one tends to suffer. With Pluto, attachment to anything undergoing decay yields pain. Plutonian shocks seem to originate as if from the very innermost core of being. Its effects can bring about a rather long-lasting transformation of whatever it touches (the impacted natal positions) by exposing and then, eliminating whatever is obsolete, outdated and otherwise dead to that area.

PLUTO cont.

The overall intent of Pluto's force is revitalization of whatever has fallen prey to debilitating stagnation. With Venus, it's patterns of intimacy and with Mars, sexuality and the will to take action. Pluto conjuncting the Sun demands complete transformation of self; the ego-structures collapse and rearrange themselves. Pluto governs the spectrum of death and rebirth: from ego-death (and reformation) to literal, physical death (and reincarnation). How death manifests may depend on how literally, or seriously, one takes ego. Pluto is one-hundred percent effective; it leaves no stone unturned, turning each stone many times over smoothing it down to its most essential shape. When Pluto conjuncts natal Neptune, one might confront one's cherished illusions as Pluto's laser beam slices through and explodes our pipe dreams with the force of disillusionment. Those dreams that are connected to our innate core of being are left vitalized and fortified, improving their chances of survival.

Pluto transits can look, feel, smell and taste like Real Hell. If there are dead feelings (Moon) or grey-faced, stiff beliefs (Jupiter) emerging to consciousness, ego invariably must face the dead as they exit towards open air and the sunlight beyond. If ego remains identified with these symbolic corpses, it must suffer with them. If taken literally, this inevitability leads to some form of suicide. The main thing to remember with Pluto around is to relax attachment to ego...give yourself indisputable permission to let go, let be and not have to be anything. *Be nothing.*

The Tragedy of Orpheus and Eurydice

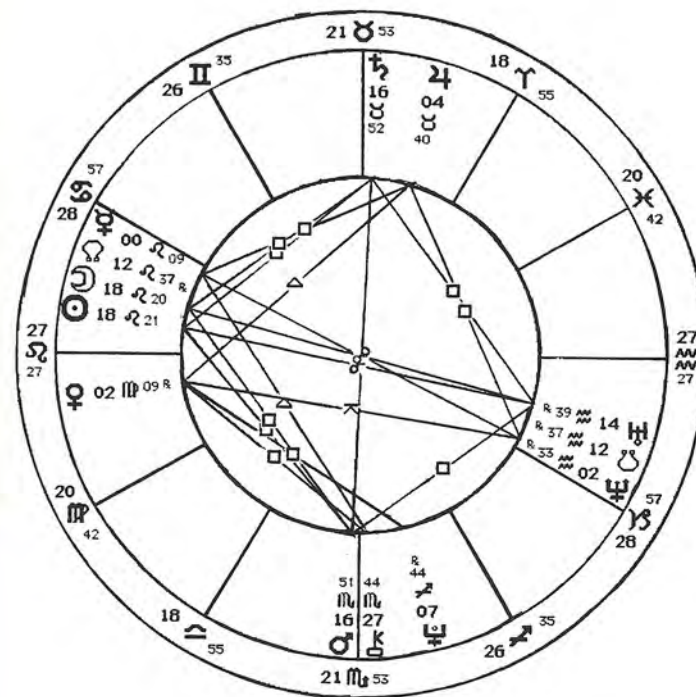
Mythologically, Pluto (or Hades) has traditionally governed the underworld regions. The tragic Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice tells the story well enough. Orpheus, the great poet and musician, loses his beloved Eurydice when she dies by snake bite. Her soul is sent to the netherworld of Tartarus, (a derivative of Taurus?). Orpheus vows to journey below and find her and, bring her back. Orpheus charms his way past the gatekeepers of Hell and goes directly to Pluto for directions.

ORPHEUS, cont.

Pluto rather takes a liking to Orpheus and grants him entry to the Realm of the Recently Deceased with one condition: that, upon finding Eurydice, he not look back at her until they're both standing in the sunlight of the upperworld, together. If he looks at her before she steps out of the shadows, she belongs to Hades. Orpheus agrees to the pact. He finds Eurydice and starts his ascent with her walking behind him, following the music of his ever-present lyre. Orpheus reaches the well-lit upperworld and, while standing in the brilliant sunlight assumes Eurydice is directly behind him and thus, also, in the light. He turns around and sees his beloved's alarmed eyes in the shadows. And then, she disappears. The story goes on to convey the dreadful isolation, questionable religious conversion (as a priest in the Temple of Apollo) and untimely death of Orpheus by the hands of Dionysus' maenads. The classical version ends tragically with the severed head of Orpheus singing and prophesizing until it, too, is put to silence by Apollo himself. End of myth. (read GREEK MYTHS I, by Robert Graves) The metaphor of Orpheus' journey can apply to Pluto transits in general. By the sojourn we may be called upon to undertake (pun intended) into the darkest, deadest corridors of our soul, we find what we know we must retrieve and bring back to the light of day...to the light of consciousness. This soul-searching process is psychotherapeutic by virtue of the task of dragging subconscious contents out to the conscious mind to register, release and/or integrate into the personality. Pluto transits are saying that some part of you is dying and that you need to let go in order to be reborn. I think the main way ego can "help" during these transits is through disidentification with the dead. Pluto moves rather slowly. Its transits can last up to a few years in some cases and many more years thereafter, to integrate the depth of what occurred. Often times, it is impossible to see or know what's going on until well after, in retrospect. It pays to confess confusion when you actually are confused; it keeps the mind out of deep shit. Pluto also opens up a treasure trove of extraordinary and priceless gifts. Pluto transits work at the innate level of essence, unveiling the rich resources of our deeper spirituality.



Pluto transits show us how addicted we are to control and having power over our lives. By the exposure and persistence of genuine conflict (when ego tries to maintain its illusions of control and comprehension), we are enlightened to our inevitable mortality. Life is suddenly out of our hands, as it always was and will be. By embracing our "death" here and now on the planet, we finally get on with the business of living a real life. We don't have to wait until we die physically to be reborn, again. We can "pass over to the other side" right now. This plutonic principle of surrender and complete transformation is inherent to all real mysticism, from the life of Christ (not Christianity) to the legendary phoenix bird ascending from its ashes to the many deaths each of us undergo every day, unnoticed. Pluto has x-ray eyes and sees through them all; under its transits, we learn *how to surrender*.



transits to post-history

The End of the World As I Want It

"The Grand Fixed Cross/Eclipse of August 11, 1999"

(note: construct chart for 8/11/99, 7:08 am Washington DC)

On August 11th, 1999 there will coincide, in the skies above and the souls below, the magnanimous astrological configuration of a *grand fixed cross* crowned by a *new moon solar eclipse*. I am hard-pressed to find a more stunning extraterrestrial geometry for this century. That it congeals less than five months before the end of the millennium is but one of many dazzling points in this *caustic cosmic crucifix*. Where to begin? My bias; where I'm coming from. The way I'm choosing to interpret this stems from my own alignment with Creation *as I know it*; no matter how disturbing or shocking the news, I tend to interpret it creatively. It is certainly not my intention to act as any mercenary messenger of dismal doom. How limiting; how boring! For all I know, doomsday may've already been canceled. Or, perhaps the Earth itself (suspended inside the calm center of the crucifix) is calling the shots and we are set for the ride of our lives, while our home planet is initiated to higher extraterrestrial frequencies.

Shock isn't necessarily a bad thing. Sometimes, outside shock can be a symptom of a deeper need for a necessary change we are incapable of implementing by our own efforts or will power. Outside shock can erupt from anywhere and anytime: within us, below us (the Earth), around us (other people), and above us (the stars). Real life delivers an intermittent series of outside shocks *all the time*; we are too often asleep to notice. I attract shocks into my life whenever I suffer from what I call, "*familiarity overdose*"; when false assumptions overwhelm my perceptions, I start taking my life for granted. It never fails; it's perversely predictable. The more I take for granted, the sooner I'm aware of a shock. How I *respond* to any shock determines whether I'm waking up to the life I'm actually living or sinking deeper into the sleep of naively repeating my false assumptions. When I respond without learning, I repeat my errors and feel humiliated.

When I can muster up the presence of mind to correct my errors, I am humbled and more prepared to battle a stupidity that doesn't always seem to be of my own design. A **demonic species stupidity** -- a *deeply ingrained habit for repeating our errors* -- is what I see. And by my calculations, we are about to confront the beast in August and September, 1999 and *it is us*.

The basic geometry of this astrological event is called a *grand fixed cross*. It's made up of two oppositions that include all four fixed signs: *Taurus, Leo, Scorpio* and *Aquarius*. Taurus opposes Scorpio; Leo opposes Aquarius. These two oppositions also share tense square aspects (90 degrees) with each other, producing a four-tiered T-square configuration. Picture four medieval cross bows loaded, cocked and pointed towards their common center; *the concentric pressure is tremendous*. On August 11th, the planets Saturn (in Taurus) and Mars (in Scorpio) oppose each other, as the Sun and Moon (in Leo) oppose Uranus (in Aquarius) while the Earth spins within the high-pressure zone of dead center. *It's the Earth's turn...*

There is something surgically precise about this cosmic design, as if some kind of operation were taking place. Let's for a moment assume that the planets themselves are not the cause of anything but instead act as lenses for the expression of forces larger than themselves; perhaps, forces beyond time and space altogether. That these planets, Sun and Moon are all synchronized in fixed signs suggests to me that their function in this operation is to *focus and direct* larger powers onto the Earth itself; as if the Earth was on the operating table or about to partake in some kind of initiation. For what purpose? Whatever it is, it will happen to each and every living being on this planet. There is no difference between what happens to the Earth and what happens to us all. This has always been so yet perhaps never as amplified until now. Add to this the eternal enigma of the *Sphinx*, a composite of the *grand fixed cross*: head of man (Aquarius), wings of eagle (Scorpio), paws of lion (Leo) and body & tail of bull (Taurus). A cosmic riddle unfolds...

To deepen our insight into this grand fixed cross, I suggest a more spiritual metaphor for the planets and the stars. Think of planets as *angelic entities* incarnating as planetary bodies. Think of stars (our Sun) as *arch-angels* incarnating as ultra-high energy life sources; think of the Moon as a kind of mirror reflecting arch-angelic emanations. Now look at the operating room: Three angels guided by one arch-angel (*and its mirror*) to *focus and direct* force onto a *fourth angel, the Earth*. At the very least, this means amplification and acceleration of cosmic energies throughout the Earth and everything on it. What will happen? Your guess is as good as mine.

I think we are facing what biblical lingo might call "Judgment Day", except I don't think it's an old bearded guy in the sky pointing His finger at us. I think civilization as we know it, and its modern technology, is being evaluated by the angelic entity of Earth; *Nature evaluates Man's progress*. How will this angelic evaluation manifest? I think it has already begun with the acceleration of weather anomalies, tornadoes, landslides, floods, pestilence, earthquakes, blizzards, and other forces of nature whipping WoMan into submission. I think that one result of this *cosmic crucifixion* (symbolized by the grand fixed cross) is a kind of *amping up and turbo-charging* of the Earth's energy field and its interface with our collective and individual energy fields.

Flip In or Flip Out; Get Real or Lose Your Mind

This overall raising of bio-electrical energies can act as an *outside shock* to those of us still over-identified with the mind and its creations -- ie., *all that is symbolic* -- at the expense of losing touch with the real, ie., *what is beyond the mind and its creations*. Whosoever is not learning to go beyond the mind, may be losing their minds. *Flip in or flip out...* Another metaphor; *the cosmos is not made up of atoms as scientists insist but of stories*. The stories and myths embedded in each of the four fixed signs are universal yet act themselves out in our personal lives in differing ways. By applying our understanding of the four fixed signs, I believe we can fortify our ability to *hold and direct power* greater than our own; *as above so below*.

Look to your own natal chart to discover where this grand fixed cross overlaps your own life; which houses contain the 15-20 degree zone of **Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius**? This is where (house) and how (aspects) this cosmic crucifix may soon be touching you. Sound like the Second Coming? Perhaps. Read now, some of Nostradamus' words from over 400 years ago:

In the year 1999, and seven months from the sky will come the great King of Terror. He will bring to life the great King of the Mongols. Before and after war reigns happily.

(note: this was written before the Gregorian calendar shifted; interpret seven months as "eight", ie., August 1999)

This will be preceded by the eclipse of the sun, more obscure and tenebrose than has ever been since the creation of the world, except that eclipse after the death and passion of Jesus Christ.

From the Sky will come the Great King of Terror

Cassini is an unmanned NASA deep space probe launched back in October '97 with an ultimate destination of reaching Saturn in 2005 (NASA's priciest space project yet; \$2-3 billion invested!). Currently, Cassini is racing back towards Earth at 43,000 miles per hour with the hopes of picking up speed in an orbital flyby around our planet. *Preceded by the eclipse of the Sun by one week*, Cassini arrives 400 miles above the Earth's atmosphere on August 18th to pick up speed on its way out to Saturn. The real danger of this Earth flyby is that Cassini is traveling with a fuel load of **72 pounds of Plutonium Dioxide**, NASA's idea of a new propulsion source. *What were they thinking?!* The slightest malfunction, miscalculation, or random collision with space debris could result in the probe, and its deadly plutonium, re-entering earth's atmosphere and incinerating its deadly cargo. *From the sky comes the Great King of Terror...* NASA claims the chance of such an accident resulting in a plutonium release is one in a million. *Many do not agree with that assessment.*

The isotope of plutonium used in Cassini, **Pu-238**, is especially dangerous because of its rapid rate of radioactive decay. It has a very short half-life (87.75 years) which means it emits radiation (mainly alpha particles) at a very high rate. Although it's true that alpha particles can be stopped by a piece of paper, when even a tiny microscopic particle of Plutonium 238 is inhaled, the localized radiation (the radiation to nearby cells) can cause lung cancer and other illnesses. Plutonium Dioxide in the environment will cause death, illness, and genetic mutations for centuries to all life forms. For more Cassini data: www.animatedsoftware.com/cassini/index.htm Billions of dollars have already been spent by NASA scientists who insist that new data about Saturn is more important (read: investment-worthy) than risking lives.

The Angels Holding the Cross Together

To me, Saturn in Taurus symbolizes the most literal, consensus reality version of existence; the measure of time as money, the hard facts of survival and those reality structures enabling us to manifest on the material plane. If the Devil were the personification of Matter then, Saturn in Taurus is the Father of Eternal Matter. Saturn is not evil per se yet we are all bedeviled to the extent *we have mistaken any one part for the whole*. Note how Saturn reigns as the highest planet on the August 11th chart (made for NASA/Washington DC) as it loosely conjuncts the MC from the 9th House.

Let's take a closer look at the forces binding this grand fixed cross together. Saturn and Mars oppose each other; the Sun and Moon are conjunct, while sharing an opposition with Uranus. Mars opposes Saturn; if Mars symbolizes willful action and Saturn earthbound responsibility then their opposition speaks of *a necessity for responsible action*. Who amongst us has not faced the *backfire effect* of irresponsible action? Misguided efforts often explode in our faces; the shame of making the same mistake over and over, again. In this August 11th chart, the consequences for irresponsible action are enforced with extreme severity. Note how Mars is linked with Pluto at their exact midpoint by Chiron.

Chiron is a comet that orbits the Sun between Saturn and Uranus, acting as a *mediator archetype* between the transpersonal outer planets (Uranus, Neptune, Pluto) and the personal inner planets (Saturn to the Sun). I believe Chiron also acts as *a subversive force*; when activated, we have the choice to either *subvert or be subverted*. We subvert Cassini or are subverted by it. *More on this later*. Pluto acts as a kind of overtone function to Mars; both are ruled by Scorpio. Transiting Mars catches up to Pluto and conjuncts it on **September 14, 1999**, triggering whatever backfire effect we are in store for (depending on how responsibly we act). I think this Saturn/Mars opposition with its link to Pluto and Chiron makes a grand symbol for the **plutonium-loaded** Cassini space probe to Saturn (with its August 18th flyby to Earth and the September 14th Mars/Pluto trigger point).

Let's look at the other opposition now; *Uranus opposing Sun and Moon*. That Uranus in Aquarius *also conjuncts an Aquarius South Node* suggests that the collective has *been here before*. As a species, it seems we humans have already faced a very similar crisis together. I think this planetary crisis is being repeated now because: 1) we did not get it right the last time 2) we need the shock to wake us up &/or 3) it's the only thing big enough to unite us. Now, I'm no rocket scientist but I think NASA has the technology, the know-how and enough time to redirect Cassini's trajectory so that its deadly cargo never reaches the Earth. If this doesn't happen, NASA will be clearly placing science above people's lives in a possibly fatal gamble that can contaminate this planet for many centuries to come. Maybe that's the idea; to force the populace off the womb planet in search of extraterrestrial lifestyles. The asteroid belt, anyone? How about a power lunch on Pluto? If Cassini is sucked into the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrates, we'll all be inhaling Plutonium Dioxide with our air. It'll be just a matter of time before we start dropping like flies and the mutations begin manifesting. Nobody can predict when and where this will happen but we will eventually know it in our bones; we will all bear the news together. *What to do?* That is the question.

Mars, *the action planet*, sits at the bottom of this chart (the nadir; I.C); *the direction closest to the Earth below*. Saturn is poised above near the chart's Midheaven. Take their opposition as a clue. *To act on behalf of the Earth* may now be our most direct expression of **responsible action**. Make a loud noise; a very, very loud noise. And send this racket to NASA in an act of vital protest. But be effective; go through the appropriate channels. Circulate internet missives; avoid talking astrology (trust me; don't try and explain the grand fixed cross). Mail letters to congress. Research the facts on Cassini. Make the necessary changes in your own lives to live more honestly.

It is not our fault that we are asleep to life and to death; remember species stupidity. We live in a death-ignorant culture where real death may soon to be thrust upon us by the powers that be, in the name of a god called Saturn, disguised as Science and fed by Greed. Wake-up, cats and kittens, wake up! Crush your naivete; reclaim your innocence! They are not the same; *they are not the same*. Look into the eyes of every person you meet with the hard knowledge that they too, like yourself, will someday die. This, alone, can begin restoring the wonder and the perspective you may have lost while sleepwalking the planet as if you would live forever.

The Sun and Moon conjunct in Leo, also conjunct a Leo North Node. A vision of an arch-angel with its mirrored shield, a beacon on the shores of a storm-riddled sea, signaling a ship to safe harbor. That ship is us; the Earth. Leo, in this instance, acts as the **redeemer archetype**; Leo, the magical child. *Lest we are reborn as children, never shall we enter the gates of heaven.* Not children as immature adults praying to some parental god-figure to save us but children as *the essence of who we are*. That this Sun, Moon, & North Node conjunction is hidden away in the 12th house of this chart suggests to me that these spiritual values of the Leo Archetype remain **invisible and unseen**. In addition to the Magical Child archetype of Leo, there are three additional fixed signs that make up the grand fixed cross.

Each of them -- *Aquarius, Taurus and Scorpio* -- provide clues to the riddle of the Sphinx; not answers to the riddle (who are we fooling?) but *clues* as to how we might possibly **embody the mystery**; perhaps become a little more sphinx-like ourselves. To "fix" means *to concentrate*; it does **not** mean analyze or understand or radiate. Concentration expresses an activity of one-pointedness. Obsession is a form of concentration. When we truly obsess on something or someone, all of our energies concentrate on one point; for better or worse, obsession gives focus to our totality. Our power of concentration is also what makes us effective; we are as a leaf in the wind without it. As each personality contains some degree of the intuitive Child archetype of Leo, so do we all carry elements of Taurus, Scorpio and Aquarius.

Look at Taurus as a **Builder**; the Great Pyramids were built during the apex of the Age of Taurus. Taurus refers to *fixation in physical sensation* (Earth); concentration in the five senses builds *constancy of presence*. Taurus anchors awareness in materiality without which, we'd divide ourselves from matter, from our bodies, from the physical universe. Look at Scorpio as a **Changeling** archetype outgrowing and molting its evolutionary stages; the scorpion, serpent, eagle, dove, & phoenix. Scorpio symbolizes *fixation of emotion* (Water); the concentration of feeling that creates passion. Scorpio intensifies experience towards its transformation. Aquarius refers to that distinctly human element of **Freedom** to experiment with and to examine ourselves. Aquarius represents *fixation of thought* (Air); a concentration of mind that clarifies vision. By its mental powers, Aquarius can develop a single idea to its final outcome in an act of creative thought. In context to the grand fixed cross of August 11th, picture these three fixed points as angels guided by an arch-angel (*the Sun/Moon in Leo*) to initiate the Earth. *As above, so below*. We can mirror this same initiation down here on Earth by first learning to **concentrate** our awareness in sensation (the body), feeling (passion) and mind (perception). When we allow these three vehicles to be guided by **intuition** -- *that wordless, direct resonance with Life itself* -- we can align ourselves with the cosmos and are thereafter, rearranged by the higher frequencies and forces initiating the Earth at this time.

The new moon solar eclipse of August 11th marks an activation of this triple 12th House Leo conjunction. Only through *deep meditation* can we access its deep innocence. I refer to any process of withdrawing attention and emotional investment away from external, horizontal material concerns and towards its reconnection with internal, vertical sources (*Soul within, Earth below, Heavens above*). This, I believe, is where and how the *Holy Guardian Angel* (symbolized by Sun, Moon, North Node in Leo) can be engaged as a source of illuminating guidance during this planetary crisis. The Leo archetype contains a veritable fountainhead of creative power *when expressed*; when not expressed, however, this same creative potential can turn *destructive*. It seems that creative energy requires an outlet for its expression *in order to remain creative*. That this 12th House Leo conjunction opposes Uranus in the 6th House suggests this ritual may not be effectively consummated alone. Aquarius in the 6th House speaks strongly of *group ritual process* yet, not just any group ritual process.

With Uranus also here, a group dynamic must somehow serve higher levels of individual and group autonomy; picture a temple of iconoclasts, where no one submits to any one image or icon or dogma or god but instead serves their own individual awakening processes. *Waking up to life as it is*. Yet, it may not be enough to merely meet with others and do your own thing. This sovereign group of individuals must also somehow remain connected with internal, vertical sources (symbolized by the 12th House Leo archetype) *while relating with each other*. That is the tension and the polarity; to remain true to your vertical sources while relating with others. (For more info, read my online articles: paratheatrical.com/pages/overview.html) In addition to the grand fixed cross there is a *trine shared between Jupiter and Venus*, granting social grace to the proceedings. Perhaps this represents the social unity that can emerge from shared response to this crisis. *Neptune and Jupiter are also in a square (90 degree) aspect*, which can symbolize a frustration of self-confidence; where ideals are at odds with existing realities. We need to carefully assess what we can actually do and what remains wishful thinking. But if we do not act we will never find out.

PLUTO IN SAGITTARIUS

Modern Scapegoat Rituals and the Mass Media

For as long as there have been tribes among people, one curious ritual persists to meet the primitive human need for sacrifice. The ritual of the **scapegoat** or the practice of **vicarious suffering**. From the ancient goat-man-god ritual sacrifice to the Goddess to modern-day celebrities shot down for impersonating the gods, scapegoat rituals have bonded and divided tribes from the beginning of time yet no other ritual remains more misunderstood. There is a collective human need to transcend pain and suffering. Scapegoat rituals temporarily satisfy this primitive need by transferring the accumulating pain of a group or tribe onto an object, an animal, another human being and entire races of human beings in a powerful act of contagious magic. Like a virus, it is contagious when it spreads upon contact.

Even though the forms of these rituals change, their underlying function remains the same: **to provide a tribe with a vehicle or medium to pour their demons into**. A tribe's demons are made up of the accumulating force and pressures of their people's fears, guilts, taboos and hatreds. A scapegoat is any object, animal or human being that looks and acts like the demon that tribe is seeking release from. As people become more "civilized", through the repression and/or transmutation of our more "primitive" needs and aspects of ourselves, these needs find their way into our lives and the lives of others in more "subconscious" ways. *We need our scapegoats*. If we are not engaging this ritual consciously and with purpose, it will happen like a knee-jerk reflex when somebody presses those buttons. The problem with "knee-jerk scapegoat rituals" is they're prone to persecute living human beings. The scapegoat doesn't have to be a person or an entire race of people or a planet yet how often have we seen this happen? Here in the 21st century post-Information Media Age, it seems that modern scapegoat rituals have been smokescreened, virtualized and digitized by and through the mass media itself.

The Transformation of Mass Mediarchy

The passage of Pluto through Sagittarius symbolizes, to this astrologer, a decade or so (1995-2006) symbolizing two basic levels of *collective media transformation*. It is important to understand how "media" is a very small word symbolizing very expansive (Sagittarian) states. By my guesstimation, we have already left the so-called Information Age behind and are entering the hyper-saturation point of a new era of "*Mass Mediarchy*".

The second level of collective transformation involves *media rebirth*. Symptoms of media rebirth have already appeared in the film, music and publishing industries with the emergence of more independent media producers functioning autonomously of the more mainstream media systems. Media rebirth can happen anywhere an individual or a collective starts its conversion from mere consumption of media to its translation and finally, its regurgitation and transmission into something different. Media rebirth is about imaginative translation of media.

If you refuse to translate the information you are absorbing, you stop thinking for yourself and continue eating other people's data until your mind shuts down from numbing information overdose, and eventually, imagination death. Consuming media without creative translation makes scapegoats of us all. It is fatal insofar as imagination is necessary to media translation. Without a healthy imagination, media translation may be impossible.

There will always be more media consumers than media producers. Part of the problem may've begun in a public's longstanding passive habit of consuming spoonfed answers by corporate advertisers and other media politicians which have, in turn, encouraged that public (that's us, folks) to continue spoonfeeding others. It's a very modern habit. We have become babies feeding babies in the Media Age and it is time to toilet-train ourselves.

Change the Image

To probe the more esoteric meanings of the Scorpio/Pluto archetype, I suggest Paul Foster Case's book, THE TAROT (MACOY Publishing, Richmond VA; 1975) where, in his chapter discussing "key 13: death", he associates the Scorpionic death/rebirth process to the Hebrew letter *Nun*. Case goes on to say how "*Imaginative Intelligence is the mode of consciousness attributed the letter Nun...and ...that the choice of the adjective "imaginative" is in accordance with the doctrine of Ageless Wisdom that causation is mental.*" He adds: "*All changes are primarily changes in mental imagery; change the image, and ultimately the external form will change.*" Change the image and ultimately the external form will change. It doesn't say absorb or become the image but change the image. Imagination could be a word to describe that image-changing process in our psyches capable of forming visions, telling stories, creating myths and even making our own media.

As a hypermedia culture, we are extremely sophisticated in our tastes for entertainment and the kinds of images we consume and identify with. In many instances -- such as with the rigid family values and fixed behavior standards set on many television sitcoms and drama shows -- our lives are subliminally influenced to conform to inane and incredibly stupid definitions of what it means to be a human being. Dumb, Dumber, Dumbest. Without the imaginative intelligence to translate, regurgitate and reproduce the media we passively consume, it is safe to say that media rebirth is unlikely.

Pluto in Sagittarius represents a time period of mind-boggling expansion in not just more media to eat -- there will always be too much -- but also the means to create our own media through publishing, music production, film and video, CD ROM and Virtual Reality technologies, online newsletters, and the myriad art forms now interfacing with science. As people take back the air waves and manage their own media, that crossover from consumption to production catalyzes the collective transformation Pluto in Sagittarius symbolizes.

Thought Control & Media Propaganda

As a planet, Pluto does not cause this change; as astrologers, we must stop spoonfeeding ourselves these lies. **We cause this change together** during what astrology calls Pluto's passage through Sagittarius. As a symbol, Pluto in Sagittarius might also reflect a process of thought (Sagittarius) control (Pluto); specifically, a time period when the collective confronts more disclosure of externally imposed thought control. In his collection of interviews, **STENOGRAPHERS TO POWER: Media & Propaganda** (Common Courage Press; Monroe, ME; 1992), media activist David Barsamian argues convincingly for the immediate disclosure of how mass media has been used by corporate agencies for exercising thought control in America since the early part of this century. Noam Chomsky, one of those interviewed, suggests: "...in a state where government can't control the people by force it had better control what they think..." When Chomsky speaks of the public school systems, he says: "They are institutions for indoctrination, for imposing obedience, for blocking the possibility of independent thought, and they play an institutional role in a system of control and coercion. Real schools ought to provide people with techniques of self-defense, but that would mean teaching the truth about the world and about society, and schools couldn't survive very long if they did that."

As mentioned earlier, the function of a scapegoat is to satisfy the age-old human need for sacrifice by the projection of collective pain and suffering onto an object, an animal, another person or a group of people. Since I cannot condone the scapegoating of any animal, person or collective I cheerfully resort to what looks and acts most like the demon my people are seeking release from. Mass media. Many are the ways to scapegoat the mass media. For starters, turn off the TV. Break trance. Create your own media. Make trance. Produce more media than you're currently consuming. Reimagine everything you see on TV. Break trance. Stop your cocooning. Get out into the streets, again. Talk amongst yourselves. Listen to international news on short wave radio. Learn to really listen to each other. Make a movie with your friends. Start a newsletter. Exercise your imaginations. Stop mainlining the online. Make real connections with people. Do it now. *Imagination death precedes death of soul.*

NEPTUNE IN AQUARIUS

Chaos Culture, Tribal Mind & John Travolta

The combined archetypes of Chaos and Tribal Mind are well symbolized by astrological Neptune passing through the style of Aquarius. I don't think the out-there planets themselves constitute the cause of anything that happens down here on earth. In my humbled opinion, their interstellar orbits articulate the timing of changes, tendencies and trends that we as people experience throughout our lives. The planets do not change us; as with everything alive, we are changed as a result of living. And the deeper we live, the more rooted we become in the cycles of transformation itself.

To embody this awareness and not merely understand it, one must learn to live as the sun, as an energy source -- *as a star* with the courage and will to prevail amidst an unfathomable abyss until, as with everything alive, our light inevitably goes out. The actual causes of our changes, personally and collectively, stem more from our struggles, failures and successes as a species learning how to survive at increasingly complex levels of evolution and cooperation. As we persist, we become more self-aware and as a species, evolve more complex codes, maps and tools; *cultures, subcultures, microcultures*. This scientific, innovating spirit is well symbolized by Aquarius; synchronized with Neptune, the tribal mind enters an era for creating its own *chaos culture* to adapt to the erosion of its own consensus reality structures. The universe is not up made of atoms but *of stories*. The culture generated by tribal mind, no matter what its language or politics or artistic expression, perpetuates itself in the stories passed down from generation to generation. Prehistoric paintings scrawled inside mountains on cave walls depict cavedweller dramas; hunting, fighting large beasts, caring for the sick. In and of themselves, these primitive sketchings are not terribly remarkable. But add the flickering luminosity of a roaring bonfire and these same figures jump to life and offer up a glimpse of the first motion picture. And, a very early version of chaos culture.

Chaos culture is tribal mind's way of disrupting its own consensus reality trance. Some call it entertainment or, escape from boredom; I call it breaking cultural trance. The purpose of breaking trance -- and the aim of chaos culture -- is to make new ones; break trance, make trance. The word, trance, is used broadly here to convey any fixed state of consciousness resulting from any mind fixating on any one idea or picture or meaning of a picture, over most or all other images and meanings. Such a mind becomes fascinated, entranced, and finally hypnotized with and by its own fixation. It becomes *a mind consumed by itself*. What astonishes me is how utterly commonplace and widespread this cultural trance is and, how pervasive its incumbent forms of *mass hypnosis*. This idea of mass hypnosis is not a sinister conspiracy (although advertising geniuses always prove me wrong) but what comes natural to large groups of people and what we may actually need to endure the boredom of mundane life. Our minds love to complicate things. The mind loves wrapping itself around concepts and ideas substantial and attractive enough to replicate the illusion of reality, where no reality actually exists; *now, that's entertainment!*

Aquarius as Fixation in the Realm of the Mind

The root meaning of the word, entertainment, comes from the Latin "*intertenerere*" meaning "*to hold or keep among*"; "*inter*" means among and "*tenere*", to hold. To entertain means *to hold*. In the current era, the chief entertainment mediums are mental (via the primarily visual mediums of television and cinema) and entertainment is now whatever holds the mind. Aquarius is a fixed air sign. Air symbolizes the mental realm and its free associations of thoughts, images, ideas and concepts. The fixed modality addresses concentration; in Aquarius, a fixation in the realm of the mind. John Travolta, a monstrously successful Aquarian film actor, dazzles his audience with a charisma that stems from his highly scientific approach to mind control; one he perfected by climbing the ranks of Scientology to its highest degree: "the clear". By his fine-tuned fixation at the thought frequency of his characters, Travolta consistently turns out transcendent performances; he becomes the character and then goes one step beyond: he disappears. John Travolta can be spooky that way...

On a grander cinematic scale filmmaker James Cameron's commercial masterpiece, THE TITANIC, struck deep chords in a consensus tribal mind hungry to project, and thus view and vicariously experience, its own potential extinction. Our precious lives! Our shipwrecked fates! Whether true or not, the idea of our species drowning in its own tsunami of self-destruction forms an albeit tragic but compelling image. A modern example of chaos culture. It also fulfills a tribal need to keep responding to images holding our minds hostage to the resonances they stir in our souls. And that's, also, entertainment!

Neo-Utopian Anarchy

Natal Neptune symbolizes the cycles of idealism and disillusionment in a specific area in one's life. In my own chart, Neptune conjuncts Saturn in the 11th House. Many of my unrealistic hopes and dreams for a better world have been systematically crushed by the harsher realities of a jaded and cynical society. Fortunately, my Saturn influence has also wizened me to my responsibility for structuring my own kind of utopia for building friendships with kindred souls who share with my dreams of a better world; I guess that makes me a pragmatic utopian. The last time Neptune was in Aquarius (1835-1849), the utopian poetics of Emerson and Hawthorne inspired free-thinking individuals to start community-building projects throughout the backwoods of rural America. Frontier villages and utopian communes emerged across the plains, mountains, deserts and shores. No matter how short-lived, these social experiments succeeded in breaking the consensus trance of those times.

During Neptune's current passage through Aquarius (through April 5, 2011), neo-utopian anarchists migrate to the virtual wilderness of cyberspace to exercise their freedom of speech in global forums of information exchange. Saturnine (government) restrictions have begun imposing rules and regulations yet, the internet remains the most uncensored communication medium on the planet today. As a potent form of chaos culture, the internet has the power to break cultural trance; knowledge is power.

Neptune as a Force of Chaos Culture

However, "the world's largest research library" can rapidly cave into its own consensus reality tunnels. If you are an avid netsurfer and have not yet devised a way to break "internet trance", your mind will eventually fixate, crystallize and dissolve. Another way of looking at the Neptune in Aquarius effect can be seen in the dissolution of our most common assumptions of how people behave and interact amongst themselves. The Neptune current acts as if it were a kind of acid bath, eroding and distressing the structural integrity of whatever it touches. Neptune is touching Aquarius, a fixed air sign and a symbol for our fixed ideas about ourselves as people and a human species. It's as if Neptune is reminding us of the mysteries of our spiritual origins; that we may have no business pretending to know who we are or where we came from or why we are here. It's all unknown, in other words. It takes courage to be clueless and open to the cosmos at large. It takes a lot of guts to express yourself and act out of that kind of vulnerability.

To be more free of fixed preconceptions, we must learn that "to assume" is to make an "ass" out of "u" and "me." See how long you can go assuming nothing; it may show you where you are in the scheme of Neptune's dissolution. Look to where the early degrees of Aquarius demarcate your own natal chart and you may discover where (house or planet) your assumptions are collapsing. This area may also be where your own chaos culture is actively breaking consensus reality trance. In the 10th House, consensus opinions of success and status collapse; in the 3rd House, tribal reality maps (language) dissolve; in the 1st House, socially-approved self-concepts fall away; in the 8th House, previously sanctioned taboos are lifted. The intent of the Neptune current seems to be enlightenment through disillusionment; an exposure and sacrifice of illusion in exchange for more clairvoyance or, clear-seeing. And, *the truth will set us free but first it may make us miserable...*

Everybody Is A Star *Self-realization in the Aquarian Age*

There is nothing to predict; there is everything to report. It is merely a matter of ACCESS. Self-access. Not tomorrow; not next week. Not when you have "enough money" or get your "act together" or find that "special someone" or any other disguise of procrastination. It's already happening. This shift is not without its own internal sources of support. Any legitimate paradigm shift is carried by an innate supply of grace, magic and power. When the 12-fold grid of astrology is superimposed over this current paradigm shift it can elicit specific information for Self-realizing individuals motivated to embody the internal polarity of their Sun signs. As more unconscious (negative) aspects of our totality are made conscious and integrated, a union of opposites commences to transmit more heat, light and novelty (or new information).

Self-realization is not just about doing your own thing. With Aquarius, Self-realization is galvanized by the social context you attach your personal life to. "Personality" may be a modern word for fate insofar as the effects of personal choices determine who you become and to some extent, what becomes of us. Yet personal growth isn't everything. To minimize self-delusion, we must learn to discern between the "strong ego" and the "big ego". Big egos are the product of excessive negative and/or positive inflation, by over-identification with either the weaker (negative) or the stronger (positive) images of oneself. Fortunately, most big egos express built-in delusional symptoms -- *like rigidity, paranoia and an inability to listen* -- that can be read by the observant and compassionate eye. With a little self-control, big egos can be self-corrected. Unlike the head-nodding placation of self-understanding, self-realization is necessarily difficult and demanding. The struggle defines, affirms and strengthens us. It is too late for self-denial; there's no time left to remain divided within ourselves. *Have you not heard the news ?*

NEWSFLASH!

Imagine your personal defects and flaws as the human aspects of your totality; the signature rendering your totality distinct. *You are already unique enough.* It is time to serve the larger whole with your distinction intact. Each Self-realizing star expresses its own unique purpose in a chart I call, THE UNITED STATES OF AQUARIUS, characterized by a 00 degree Aquarius ASC with Uranus Rising in Aquarius; use an equal house system. In the United States of Aquarius each Sun sign (or style of Self-Realization) has its own state to govern.

(1) AQUARIUS RISING: A SOCIAL IDENTITY

What properties characterize the paradigm shift? The passing Piscean Age was symbolized, in part, by the monotheistic crucified man-god. The Aquarian Age obviously demands a more egalitarian, polytheistic and less self-victimizing archetype such as a Rainbow Tribe of Nations for celebrating cultural diversity. Aquarius defines this epoch by reasserting "the social". I suggest a 19th Century Byronic socialism -- *a collective of rugged individualisms* -- to replace the previously self-sacrificing Piscean social mores, ie., the homogeneous conformity of Maoism, Communism and Christian/Capitalist Consumerism. In the sociopolitical Aquarian age, Self-realization struggles to express itself as the cultural norm. This is not an era instigated by religions (Pisces) but an epoch shaped by social reform, science and interspecies survival. Self-realizing Aquarians act as rebellious ambassadors for the zeitgeist with their instinct for freedom and their friendly aloof styles of experimentation.

(2) PISCES: UNITY IN SPIRITUAL SECURITY

The previous era saw the cresting of hard material values. This value changes as cash disappears and is replaced by invisible debit currency digitally manipulated in cyberspace. World bank mergers digitize the virtual global economy. Small businesses infiltrate the internet of mail-order information services to maintain solvency in a pervasively nonlocal, plastic economy.

PISCES, cont.

Sophisticated virtual reality technologies, hi-tech toys and 3-D immersion software provide Aquarian consumers with greater spiritual security through simulated escapes from the material world. Cocooning trends escalate; *"why go out when you can stay in?"* God as security; G.O.D. as Greatest Ongoing Diversion. Self-realizing Pisces' retreats from the aggressively materialist values of the outgoing Aries governor. Security is no longer something to fight for (Aries) but now something everybody can (to some extent) merge into, even if that security is temporal and illusory at best; *the illusion of security*.

(3) ARIES: INFORMATION WARFARE

The previous Taurean commercialization of data produced enough greed and inhouse fighting to thrust the Information Age into outright Information Warfare. INFO-armies of Microsoft, MacIntosh, IBM and Nintendo now train teenage INFO-warriors and other INTEL-ligencia to defend their interests on the Information Superhighways, where the hot new turf of the human mind is up for grabs. *"Whosoever owns the program, controls the mind."* Long-term effects of the Eighties' computer explosion was compounded by "heavy-user" on-line internet addiction of the Nineties, leading to an epidemic of media identification -- *a mass hallucination* -- where the "virtual", or symbolic, was confused for the real; mass skitzophrenia runs epidemic.

Heroic Self-realizing Aries arrives to reinforce the axiom: *"I am not the program; I am the programmer."* New self-knowledge appliances and INFO-technologies assist online addicts to change their previous status as media consumers into media producers to instigate a revolution in free-trade media. The word "information" is redefined as *"the unpredictability of a message; the more unpredictable the message, the more information in it."* New educational programs replace the previous Taurean fixations on known, literal and concrete data with programs promoting the development of creative thought.

(4) TAURUS: GEOMANCY OF PLANET HOME

The Aquarian era draws its sustenance from conservative roots. The Earth below (for Taurus rules the Earth; leave Venus to Libra!) regains its highest value as the real home and mother of the human race. Nationalism and political boundaries dissolve, yielding to planetary citizenship. Space migration transports families into intergalactic colonization; "home" is nostalgically remembered as "the blue planet." Self-realizing Taureans as planetary homesteaders and gatekeepers of sacred ecology. Geomancy, or earth divination, forms the basis for Aquarian architecture. Previous Gemini (skitzoid) family values are regrounded in permaculture barter economics; webworks of multi-family units subsist off the mainstream grid. Paganism surpasses Christianity as a popular world religion when the archetypes of PAN, the Minotaur and the Goddess flood the night dreams of the collective psyche.

(5) GEMINI: MULTI MEDIA CREATIVITY

On the heels of the media hyper-saturation of the Nineties and its resulting trivialization of Art, interactive media (video/audio/computer/desktop publishing) is infiltrated at the grassroots level by millions of ordinary people. *"The People Reclaim the Air Waves."* Old world Film, Music, Radio, Dance and Theatre industries collapse under the cumbersome weight of their dinosaur economics. Independent media producers clamor for fresh new programming to fill the demands of 500+ channel home entertainment centers (V.O.D.). Public school systems incorporate mandatory media literacy programs to prepare students for the Multimedia marketplace. Previous family-run, hierarchical Cancerian governorship of the Arts gives way to a networking, omnidirectional Gemini INFO-MANIA: *"What limits? The possibilities are endless."* Self-realizing Geminis are NFO-Artists redefining Art as any medium promoting unrestricted communication. Tenacious Cancerian art mongers push nostalgia trends as archivists of old movies, operas, musicals, vinyl records, TV sit coms and other archaic relics of outdated cultural history.

(6) CANCER: DOMESTICATION OF WORK

Village priorities return to the hearth as extended family planning and professional childcare organize a massive revision of child labor laws. Extensive social research finally proves that mental retardation affects 77% of all children watching too much television. New laws require children, by the age of ten, to work the job suited to their skills for competitive wages. During the first fifteen years of this program overall productivity triples as child I.Q. rises an average 35 points. The boom of independent cottage industries, video-fax services and maternal day care enterprises bring 80% of all small businesses into the home. Families share up to 300% more time together while working as a unit. The previous patriarchal Leo governorship yields to the Cancerian matriarchy of family values in the work place. Olde school Leonine competitive values are replaced by Cancerian empathic models for encouraging whatever process meets the needs of the village. *"Nature Nurtures The Future"*.

(7) LEO: ON REINVENTING THE ROMANTIC

As a revolt against the depersonalization of modern life, a neogothic revival of nineteenth Century romantic "love of love" emerges as a basis for reinventing the romantic; love becomes reason enough to marry. *"Art partners" -- lovers joining forces in joint creative projects --* explore and establish new models of intimacy. *"The Couple That Plays Together Stays Together."* Though this romantic ideal began under the previous Virgo governor (joint business ventures) it never reached romantic consummation at the collective level. Self-realizing Leos can now love themselves enough to truly love others. The previously over-analytical process-oriented modes of partnering (Virgo) are transformed into a more futuristic, charismatic paradigm of "a stellar polarity of dancing stars", where intimacy forms the basis of ongoing Self-realization. Leo also represents the shadow of Aquarius, illuminating the repressed wonders of childhood when love really mattered and imagination was not just an illusion but food for the soul.

(8) VIRGO: NEURO-TECHNOLOGICAL MAGICK

The Neuro-Technological Harvest. The area of greatest human transformation is the interface between modern sciences with the human nervous system. Neuro-biology, neuro-psychology, neuro-physics, neuro-politics, and the neuro-intelligence systems of cyberspace and on-line virtual realities all depend on increasing conscious participation of the central nervous system (CNS); *the self-aware CNS*. Information crimes increase as governments create new laws to control cyberspace. INFO-vigilantes and anarcho-cybershamans continue hacking and scrambling classified programs of corporate, government databanks in their ongoing attempts to sabotage the IRS, CIA, IBM, FBI and NBC. Virtual sex and 3D pornography industries skyrocket, generating unprecedented capital investment for VR, VOD and CD Rom software/hardware development. Under Virgo's rulership, previous Libran coupling methods for procreation are replaced by sperm-egg grafts, test tube babies, advanced genetic engineering and extraterrestrial transhuman intercourse. The A.M.A. collapses and reforms as the P.H.A. (Planetary Herbal Alliance) after medical reports confirm cures for cancer, AIDS and heart disease distilled from flora & fauna in the Amazon river basin. The Species Survival Act is established to preserve rainforests.

(9) LIBRA: THE NEW RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

After two thousand years of religious warfare, global spiritual leaders meet in 2012 to form a new world order of spiritual equality based on mutual differences; *all religions agree to disagree*. We see an emergence of a new religious ambivalence; *"if everything's equal, what's the big deal?"* Grassroots spiritual movements devoted to tantric worship between consenting couples crop up everywhere. Old religious dogmas are reappropriated by participating couples into their own own religions; *a temple of two*. Self-realizing Libras are the freelance, non-sectarian priests and priestesses providing spiritual guidance, religious rituals and customs to help perpetuate each temple's traditions. The ruthless tactics of the previous Scorpio governor yields to the grace of Libra. *God is no longer what we fight for but what is worth loving*. Marriages, confirmation, benediction, baptism and funerals are performed but not the State.

(10) SCORPIO: CONTROLLED ANARCHY

World politics shift from a predominant religious orientation (maintained previously by Sagittarius) to a political state of organized chaos under the Mafioso economic strategies of mystical Scorpio. Once the exclusive domain of foreign policy, political chaos is successfully implemented domestically as an incentive for economic growth and social stability. By maintaining low-grade levels of street anarchy and media-simulated police intervention, governments attain cost-effective methods for social control. The establishment of "No Go Zones" -- geographic and economic sectors triaged for minimal government investment -- pervade inner city life. *"Expand the pasture and control the cows."* Self-realizing Scorpio marketing ninjas offer public workshops in guerrilla media tactics as an Aquarian attempt to empower the people through greater media activism. Prostitution and all other sex-industry professions are legitimized as legal tender in designated No Go Zones. Marijuana, and related hemp byproducts, are legalized after economic surveys reveal their success in regenerating federal economy. As media literacy escalates, politicians are required to take acting lessons or sing and play in a rock'n'roll band before and/or during any televised political campaign higher than congressperson. Eventually, politicians are rendered obsolete by the consumers' almost unanimous choice to vote for knowledge appliances instead of people. Highly successful nomadic circus sideshows and "dada cabarets" provide jobs for aging politicians.

(11) SAGITTARIUS: A NOMADIC COMMUNITY

Soon after the collapse of bipartisan politics and American immigration enforcement (circa 2005-2012), an emergence of North American nomadism -- aptly named the "Millennium Drift" -- redefines national identity. On-line nonlocal communities developed during the cyberspace boom of the Nineties form conduits for portable "planet art camps" in the outback wilderness regions of Wisconsin, Michigan, Oregon and Washington as nomadic shelters, or "slips."

SAGITTARIUS, cont.

Millions of western European, southeast Asian and northern Africans migrate and make the rest of the planet their home, caravan-style and in portable tent cities; many migrate to America. Self-realizing Sagittarians organize common interest groups to bring direction to social reforms. Old school sociopolitical hierarchies, defined by the previous Capricorn rulership, are dismantled and replaced by humanity's response to extraterrestrial visitation. A state of spiritual emergency jumpstarts collective consciousness. Soon thereafter, planet Earth and its people are initiated by an extraterrestrial race -- *who insist they are a future evolution of our own species* -- into conscious participation in intergalactic community. Olde school astrology is rendered obsolete by fixed star astrodynamics.

(12) CAPRICORN: A REFUGE FOR THE BEREFT

In response to escalating crime and over-population, the U.S.A. auctions off millions of five-acre parcels of existing wilderness to house the elderly, the physically impaired and those suffering life-threatening illnesses. Millions of jobs are created for the maintenance of controlled sanctuaries. Loyal tax-payers are offered "work-exchange property deeds" in rural Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, and the Dakotas to decentralize population. Urban high-crime zones of NYC, Chicago, Philadelphia, Miami and L.A. are declared No Go Zones and developed as inner-city prison camps. A chain of eleven major earthquakes rearranges California as The Nostradamus Islands, ten to thirty miles off the coast of Nevada. Texas declares itself a sovereign republic with its own religious, military, political and entertainment systems. America enters an era of bioregional segregation as the NW, the NE, the South and the Midwest gain sovereign status.

The Heuristic Imagination

Whether or not these premonitions become actual events or not isn't as important as imagining them in the first place. I've noticed that imagination, when persuaded to interact with existing realities, somehow sets into motion an illusion of reality that can lead to the reality itself. When effective, these illusions replicate recognizable and, as of yet, unmanifest conditions which might lead one to believe that they are true or might become true in the very near future. This mingling of fact and fiction is an age-old heuristic device for articulating "borderline or marginal" states that are as difficult to prove and as they are to disprove. The science-fiction writer or screenplay writer struggling to reveal the nature of things and something of their natural outcomes, must in effect be a very good liar to tell more of the truth.

In my opinion, the treatment of astrology thirsts for the imaginal. By approaching "truth" too directly, literally and/or overtly astrology's rudimentary functions as an interpretive and divinatory device are lost to a misguided search for personal meaning, understanding and psychological security. I'm not saying it's wrong to search for meaning, understanding and security (all important psychological and philosophical needs). I'm saying when this search is lost in astrology, the results can cramp one's interpretive talents as an astrologer. How? By searching for meaning, understanding and/or security in astrology, you're likely to find it or, make sure it appears that way (if not to yourself then, to clients). Maybe a greater "lack of self-investment" is needed to restore the perspective and playfulness of a more heuristic, imaginative astrology.



ORACULAR ASTROLOGY

Bucking the Trend to Legitimatize Astrology

The popularity of astrology and the demand for astrologers appears to be increasing exponentially with the pre-millennial chaos. As socioeconomic conditions destabilize, a disoriented populace naturally responds with more anxiety about their uncertain futures. *We want answers.* Security is in high demand these days; *all types of security.* Many turn to religion for moral security. Those who can find no answers there look to alternative ideologies, astrology being one of many to choose from. Some folks can find emotional security in marriage, while others bank on the economic security of investment income. Whatever form the human need for security takes, we have entered an era (**Saturn in Taurus!**) for taking this need and its satisfaction *very seriously.*

Over the past ten years or so numerous astrological publications, conferences, and their adjoining communities have drawn considerable attention to, what I perceive as, a misguided security need for *legitimizing* astrology. The term "legitimatize", as used here refers to a scholastic, and eventually federally-approved, testing policy for evaluating prospective astrologers' accuracy, competence and integrity as future professionals in a rapidly expanding astrological marketplace. Who creates and grades these tests? Test standards and evaluation procedures are currently under design and implementation by self-made institutes, organizations and corporations dedicated to, not only expanding public awareness of astrology but, raising the status of astrology and astrologers to that of doctors, teachers, scientists and other university-degreed professionals. Very Saturn...

In the pro-legitimization material I've personally read (*magazines & brochures*) and, from astrologers I've heard praising its benefits, nowhere have I seen *any* substantial rebuttals, contrary opinions or arguments (with the exception of a brief essay in my book, *LETTERS, ESSAYS & PREMONITIONS*).



further research

Astrological Franchises Vs. Oracular Astrology

In this article I wish to offer alternative, and probably unpopular, views on the practice of astrology and the current bandwagon effect of its proposed legitimization. My position here is *not* to fight against what I see as an inevitable astrological trend but to *fight for* a far more Uranian vision of astrology. As the transiting planetary force of Uranus gathers momentum through its native sign of Aquarius it reaches a 90 degree square aspect with Saturn (*in Taurus*) for about thirteen months, from June 1999 through June 2000. As astrologers know, the square aspect conveys a tension-building energy resulting from two directions (or forces) at cross purposes, or in conflict, with each other. Square aspects aren't bad; *just difficult*. With a little imagination, however, one can learn to relate with conflict more creatively by finding more productive outlets for expressing its ensuing tensions. Or one can increase stress by resisting, or attempting to avoid, conflict altogether (*not a good idea*).

Saturn square Uranus symbolizes an informative argument between the consensus reality of *what is agreed upon by most people* (Saturn) and *an awakening of autonomy as a human being* (Uranus). It can also serve as a metaphor to view the conflict between an **oracular astrology** (Uranus in Aquarius) and the goals of security-minded astrologers seeking state-sanctioned approval for what may eventually crystallize into **astrological franchises** (Saturn in Taurus). Will "astrology licenses" be required to read charts for currency debits. What common denominator of consciousness will licensing standards reflect? Will graduates of these degree-granting institutes franchise these standards by forming their own astrology academies? What is meant by "*oracular*" refers to the ageless archetype of *the muse*, a mythical and sometimes human figure who *speaks and acts truthfully without any regard or consideration for social, economic or political consequences*. For good reasons, a muse maintains a sociological posture at the *fringe* of any village or hub of mainstream values; *the sage, the shaman, the witch, the crone*.

Once in awhile, revolutionary Uranus triumphs over Saturn. Muses infiltrate society via cultural camouflage of *humor* (Lenny Bruce), *cinema* (Charlie Chaplin), *poetry* (Sylvia Plath), *politics* (Martin Luther King), *theatre* (Arthur Miller), *music* (Jim Morrison) and *psychology* (Wilhelm Reich). But when their camouflage wears thin, Uranian truth-sayers are exposed and the restricting archetype of Saturn gains prominence. Then, our contemporary oracles (*see previous examples*) encounter various degrees of conflict, persecution and banishment from consensus reality agencies of local and federal governments.

An oracular approach to astrology serves the community at large by acting on that community as an *an outsider viewpoint*. When residing and working in denser social regions, it is easy to lose perspective of *life beyond the local hive*; we lose sight of the forest for the trees. Realizing and admitting this loss of Big Picture vision motivates some people to find a good astrologer. So, why would anyone want to standardize astrology to conform to mainstream values? Wouldn't this diminish astrology's potency and effectiveness as an oracular symbology (used to tell the truth, regardless of social, economic and political considerations)?

Attainment of any state-sanctioned, government approval for teaching and practicing astrology can only serve to assimilate and homogenize astrology into the mainstream. How important is it to see astrology on the cover of **TIME** magazine? As important as an epitaph, I fear. *Are we taking astrology too seriously?* If so, it may help explain some of the media skepticism confronting astrology today. How can we expect others to take astrology, and the astrological community, seriously if we are filling that psychic space with our own self-importance? Does the reputation of astrology really need this kind of hype during these times? Who, amongst us is ready to be made an example by fearful, bigoted sectors of the populace seeking their next scapegoat? As astrologers, I think we tend to get ahead of ourselves with this naive assumption that we are living in more enlightened times than actually exist, or can exist, for the general populace.

Perhaps, we have grown too enchanted by the grandeur of the language or, for predicting future transits; I don't know. I do know from personal experience how out of touch astrologers can get with *the street level of reality* when we are justifying life to ourselves and our clients in terms of planets, houses and signs. From a psychological level, I also question the underlying motives for this individual and collective surge to legitimize astrology. I have no degrees in Psychology yet human hindsight tells me this syndrome acts like a well-meaning attempt to heal early childhood wounds. But trying to replace an absence of unconditional parental love, with approval from a larger parental body called government, can *never* bring back the missed love; that hurt must be *mourned, forgiven and released*. That's *if* we want to move on and grow up. Some astrology institutes (whom shall remain mercifully anonymous) have made **manual** horoscope calculation and construction mandatory procedure for passing their certification programs. This is the 21st century; can we pick up the pace here?!

Old world values aside, the accuracy and speed of astrological computer software frees the astrologer to address the real work of astrology: *interpretation*. And lest we forget, astrologers are map-readers; interpreters of signs and symbols. At most, astrology is an interpretive medium. With erudite translation, anyone can learn to provide an accurate symbolic diagnosis of the person, relationship or corporation of any given horoscope. What precedes and underlies even the most skillful translation, however, is something called *bias*. It should go without saying -- *my apologies for any redundancies* -- that all astrological interpretations reflect the *subjective bias of the interpreter*; the idiosyncratic filter of beliefs, ethics, values and personal psychology that an astrologer uses to interpret symbols. Contrary to what some astrologers think, there can be no such thing as "pure information" or "absolute objective truths" when interpreting an astrology chart. You can grow adamant and impassioned about your point of view (*and you may even be right!*) but it still remains your opinion; forget this fact and, your perspective rapidly calcifies into stone, cold dogma (bigotry and paranoia, if allowed to rigidify).

IS INTERPRETATION EVERYTHING ?

If interpretation really is everything and if astrology can never actually provide absolute solutions or explanations to real life problems then, why hire an astrologer?! A good astrologer can provide a far more useful service than a mere provision of answers. By unveiling multiple points of view, more information can contribute to a bigger picture of any given dynamic or situation. With enough meaningful data, clients can begin piecing together their own options for making their own decisions, while expanding awareness of their own lives. Do people really need advice? *Advice can be a very tricky business*. Is advice what their hard-earned money pays for? Can we actually help anyone, really?

Given the chance to think for themselves and make their own choices, I think most people would make the extra effort to do so. But these liberating options must be exposed and then, *earned by the client*. As an astrologer, my bias stems from a strong belief in freedom -- *for myself and for others* -- when it comes to talking with people about their charts. My purpose: *to say what I see and what it means to me*. My process is to do so by acting on the client as a *liberating influence*. I am not there to act as Saturn and define them; more like Uranus, I startle them with options for redefining themselves. While this approach sees a diminishing return of the same clientele, all seem to leave grateful and with enough hands-on, inner work to apply on their own time; without me. My conscience is freed from the guilt I would've had if I supported their psychological dependency on my services. What is my intent as an astrologer? *Liberation*. If this expresses the intention of the transpersonal force of Uranus, that is what I serve.

When an astrologer presents a client with, what sounds to that client like, fixed answers, set solutions and absolute beliefs *about the client's chart and hence, his or her life* then that astrologer is practicing a heavy-handed, overtly authoritative approach to astrology; *too much Saturn*.

The Difficult Practice of Oracular Astrology

This gives the client basically two options: 1) Accept everything the astrologer says as truth or 2) Question the authority of that astrologer and, obtain second or third opinions wherever the data feels suspect. Economic incentives aside, which of these two options would you encourage in your client? (Honestly now). Another problem with any overtly saturnine approach to astrology is this economic incentive for encouraging the same clients to keep returning, as if they needed quarterly, semi-annual and/or annual check-ups. Surely you have seen others do this or have, perhaps, done this yourself. This relationship dynamic mirrors the way state-sanctioned doctors, psychotherapists and attorneys maintain economic ties with their patients and clients. And, lest we remain naive or ego-inflated, astrology is *not* a science nor a psychotherapy nor is it legal counsel; *astrology is a language*. Client-dependency also replicates a kind of parent/child dynamic that unfortunately inflates a false sense of self-importance in the astrologer, who grows attached to feeling needed by his or her clients. If you can live with this in full awareness of its consequences, then this approach is for you; welcome to papa Saturn's Astrology Academy. If you're having trouble fitting in, you may be a maverick; *welcome to Uranus*.

Maverick status, in any chosen profession, customarily begins with *self-employment*; you are the boss, worker and publicity agent all in one. Your most valuable asset -- *your time* -- is returned to you. You own your own time. All this glorious freedom is paid for by assuming more responsibility for yourself; far and away more than choosing to follow or copy external standards and values. This kind of self-responsibility is, by its sociological context, *very difficult*. A society that consistently rewards conformity is often threatened by autonomous outsiders who depend less on its more conservative values. Real freedom in this society is an uphill struggle. If this kind of difficulty, with its occasional and inevitable adversity, fail to discourage you then maybe you have what it takes to earn your own freedom in this world.

Your hard-earned autonomy depends on maintaining high levels of self-honesty every day of your life; a willingness and ability to keep playing it straight with yourself *with little regard for protecting your self-image, or ego*. With enough direct experience of the life you are living, you can begin determining the nature of your *bias*, or *where you are coming from*. Based on what you see, feel and know to be true, what are you willing to stand for, fight for and even die for? This forms the basis of your convictions. Add to this passion, a humility for *realizing* that no matter how fervently you feel about something, it is still *just your point of view*; your opinion. Know that from another outside vantage, your precious opinion may appear ludicrous or false and, even heretical.

If you can live with these devastating contradictions, you are better prepared to interact with compassion and intelligence when interpreting the many contrary angles in astrology charts and the people they represent. Once you know where you are coming from -- *ideologically and ethically* -- you also have what it takes to develop a knack for knowing where others are coming from, too. This can enable you to see through their pretense, their well-meaning charades and their frustrations to the deeper, underlying truths guiding their lives. *It is this deeper self that the oracle speaks to and confirms the existence of*. And, in doing so, acts as a force of liberation to the client's *innate sense of truth*. This can be unsettling to those who have denied themselves for years but ultimately, I believe, they'll be grateful for the shock of freedom to their being.

What does it take to develop an oracular approach to astrology? One hundred per cent integrity and a little courage. Inner strength, or character, develops through *an active struggle* to stay completely honest with yourself, especially amidst a society showing little or no support for your efforts. The internal reward for persisting with your personal integrity is, however, beyond measure; *it is profound*. One hundred percent integrity means knowing what you can stand behind with your totality intact; *with your whole being*. Whether this is your word, or your perception, or your instincts, this is your place of total commitment.

As commitment is tested over time, a confidence is born out of a courage to face the truth about yourself *regardless of the nature of that truth* or the ego, or self-image, buffering you from more direct experience of it. Learning to face and live with the truth about yourself prepares you for bearing the truth about others. This becomes especially useful with the acceptance and knowledge of your flaws and shortcomings. If, for instance, you see an aspect in someone's astrology chart symbolizing events you personally have had little or no experience with, your integrity demands that you say so (rather than fabricate a wise-sounding lie). To touch and enliven the very being of another, you must first know how to come from this place within yourself. And in my humbled experience, the greatest impediment to being has been *understanding*; understanding way too much and realizing far too little.

Since childhood most of us have been taught, by parents and teachers, to understand much and realize little. I was never taught the difference; that habit had to be learned on my own. Until our concepts of ourselves and the world coincide more truthfully with actual existing realities, our being can be said to be lagging behind our understanding. This is how conceptual mind stunts our capacity for the direct experience and realization so essential to nurture the being; *we are truly giants raised as dwarves!* One reason people seek out oracular astrologers is to support the awakening chrysalis of their inner being. The cocoon of spiritual amnesia cracks and the being is hungry for practical information to engage in its spiritual rebirth.

Oracular astrology may not be for everybody; not everyone is cut out to offer this approach and, only a small percentile of people seeking astrologers (maybe 10%) want, or need, an oracular-type reading. This is not meant to sound elitist; *it is elitist*. And, not elitist in the "holier than thou" or weirder than thou" sense, either. Oracles tend to be elitist by virtue of their inability or unwillingness to conform to the molds and values established by consensus mainstream society. Oracles are a growing minority of fringe-dwellers living near society's margins for reasons of their own.



Many oracular personalities -- *astrologers and non-astrologers, alike* -- find themselves living in the city; feeding on the buzz of a denser culture. Oracles that can afford it establish dual residencies; one in-hive, another beyond, rotating their lives between outback rural regions and the concrete metropolitan jungles. To sustain aesthetic and philosophical distance in the city, urban oracles find ways to *creatively marginalize* themselves -- *by becoming artists, writers, musicians or astrologers* -- to enforce the isolation their unique perspective thrives on.

Or perhaps, they choose a suitably reclusive lifestyle to stay closer to their solace of solitude. This kind of creative alienation may not always come as a conscious act or choice but from a compromise the deeper, inner being is willing to make to stay alive. Can anyone be an oracle? The oracle can be anybody and, anyone can be an oracle; it is nothing special. It is, also, not always a matter of decision but *fate*. Or rather, *personality* (which as Robert Hand suggests, is a modern word for fate). Some of us are predisposed to an oracular temperament for telling the truth and acting truthfully with no regard for socioeconomic or political consequences. *What is truth?* Truth is no big deal; it is already serious enough as it is. So why institutionalize and legitimize astrology? Have we not heard the news?! Truth does not sell (*without hype*). And, advertising is big, big business in the hungry ghost realms of unfulfilled dreams, promises and lies.

THE SUN/MOON TEMPLE

"The Precarious Balance of Spirit and Soul"

How easy to trip over words when attempting to speak truthfully of anything mystical. It's not that words themselves fail to address mystical states, as much as a lack of our accountability for their meaningful arrangement. If you are currently accelerating your perception (with personal effort &/or with drugs) and wish to communicate the ineffable, a certain transformation in the way you relate with language -- *the way you think, speak and write* -- is critical. I hope to expose and support a discernment between two psychic realities pervading all mystical states.

These two realities are symbolized in the words "soul" and "spirit", terms commonly confused to mean the same thing. They do not mean the same thing. To define these terms for my purposes here, I'll say soul (or Moon) means "that which is living" and "spirit" as "that which we aspire to become." From an astrological perspective the Sun easily represents "spirit", as does the Moon, "soul." What is important here is the semantic awareness for realizing that the symbolic Moon and Sun (and all the astrological symbols) are correspondences and representations; *not formulas*. The Moon is not the Soul; the Moon represents the reality of soul (which is beyond description). The Sun is not the spirit but an astrological symbol for its experience.

If the Sun refers to who we are aspiring to become, then your Sun sign refers to your personal process of Self-realization, an ego dynamic for becoming who you are. For the most part, the Sun sign remains misunderstood and taken for granted. How many fully Self-realized individuals do you personally know? A self-realized person is someone who has fully integrated their Sun sign and begun some process of self-transcendence, or outgrowing their Sun sign (yes, there is life after astrology). Self-realizing people are currently integrating their Sun signs by living out its archetype.

Self-realisation Is Not For Everybody

Another way the Sun sign is taken for granted is in this assumption of expertise mistakenly ascribed to the Sun sign itself. "Every Scorpio is a sex fiend; an adept of occult ritual practices." Really? Being a Taurus Sun doesn't automatically turn you into the most stable person on Earth unless, maybe, you are a Self-realizing Taurus. Being a Leo doesn't guarantee that you're a brilliant artist unless, perhaps, you are committed to your Self-realization. People are born into a Sun sign not because they are adept in that archetype but more likely out of a deep need for its essence to evolve. Self-realisation is not for everybody. Everybody is a star in potential yet not everyone is willing and able to manifest that reality. There are undeniable pressures, sudden explosions and solar flares that all fledgling stars must face. Self-realization demands a certain will to be yourself, no matter what. This means accumulating more and more experiences of zero compromise to the integrity of the archetype of your birthright.

Strong egos are not only filled with contradictions but show the courage to embrace internal polarities as part of the larger changing whole of their being. To realize your shining destiny as an individual, you must be willing to put up with a lot of heat, light and self-exposure. In this way, the process of realizing your Sun sign mirrors the heat-giving, light-bearing properties of the sun in the sky. When our Sun sign is over-emphasized, it radiates too much light, too much heat and too much self-exposure; *today's star is tomorrow's black hole*. The myth of Icarus tells of a naive young man who glued wings to his arms and flew off to the sun. In his enthusiasm for the star's fiery brilliance, Icarus flew too close and his wings melted. Down he plummeted to the sea below (the soul realm and the Moon's tidal pull). The Icarus mythos is set amidst the inseparable alchemy of the sun and the moon; the fiery light of the spirit above and the cool, dark depth of the soul below.

PSYCHIC SUNBURN & LUNAR CHILL ZONES

Another symptom of "excess Sun", or too much spirit and not enough soul, can be observed in the psychological addiction to understanding. An over-heated faculty of understanding obsesses with achieving mental clarity at all costs. White light clarity. The resulting Sun-burnt psyche grows too bright for its own good, too hot to chill out and too over-exposed to appreciate a sense of humor about itself. The whole psyche also needs downtime to sleep, rest and reflect (lunar traits) to minimize the irritating conditions of *psychic sunburn*. Through the living biology of our bodies we are linked with all things biological; all things alive. This is not so due to any system of understanding or through the courtesy of some advanced mind or university; it is an undeniable fact shouting out that, as long as we are still alive, the body is the only part of our totality that is *always in present time*.

The mind wanders, the memory diverts attention to the past but the body is always in present time; always, for as long as it is alive. This simple truth accounts for our kinship and connection with everything that exists in present time and with everything that exists, period. The direct knowledge and acknowledgement of this living fact gives us more clues about the innate meaning of the Moon in our charts and the life of the soul it symbolizes. This complex web of biological intelligences, that the Moon represents, speaks its own language. This code is free from any obligation to be understood on intellectual and spirit-based terms; it speaks its own tongue. Its logic is of dreams, its language of connectedness, impermanence and constant flux. The Moon, and the soul it refers to, stands for the genetic code of natural life; the DNA within one life form is isomorphic with the DNA everywhere life exists. If planet Earth had a common language with which it kept in touch with all its creations, it would be DNA. The genetic rivers of maternal hormones coursing through every pregnant, lactating woman is a glorious example of the swelling Moon; the ups and downs, the swells and cresting waves, the ebb and flow of the tides within and around us.

An Alchemical Mystical Marriage

When the Moon is over-identified with, we are overwhelmed by a disorientation of the senses; we take our emotions too seriously and bump into things. There are pathologies related to the Moon, lunacies of the soul. In a hyper emotional, or lunar, state we lose perspective. Logistical details like linear time (appointments) and space (accident-prone behavior) become a hit and miss endeavor at best. Sometimes, we suffer a dissolution of personal boundaries and spill ourselves blindly into the emotional life of others, often times with zero knowledge of their effects. When the Moon is over-emphasized we lose touch the consequences to our actions, as if the laws of cause and effect did not apply. If the self-delusion of an over-extended Sun believes in its own "illusion of objectivity", lunar hallucinations submerge us in deep subjectivity.

Using astrology, this information about soul and spirit can be personalized by noting the placement of your natal Moon and Sun. For a more direct experience of our own light, heat and self-exposure we turn to the natal Sun, its house placement and aspects with other planets. To cool off, turn out the lights and connect with your more nurturing life sources you find the Moon in your chart and study its variables (its sign, house & aspects). We are accountable for maintaining the often precarious balance between spirit and soul, as well as the lifelong courtship of their mystical marriage. Like soul and spirit, Moon and Sun are always married within us as long as we are alive and perhaps, thereafter.

Like soul and spirit, Moon and Sun are always married within us as long as we are alive and maybe, thereafter. Whether or not that marriage is on the rocks or not, may have much to do with how well these two aspects of our totality are communicating and understanding each other's needs. Astrology can be an effective tool to unveil this kind of understanding, given that it is applied to the realization of the living facts these symbols merely refer to; understanding isn't everything, in other words, unless you are totally spirit/Sun identified.

Living in the Temple of the Sun & the Moon

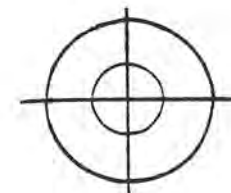
The use of the Sun and Moon sign for instigating and maintaining our own psychic weather -- the atmospheres, the warm sunny days, the brooding moody twilights -- can be a valuable "alchemical barometer" for reading our psychic and emotional needs. By distinguishing the solar and lunar properties in your life, it may be possible to use your personal birthchart to fine-tune what you have begun to experience on your own. One of the ways to ritualize this alchemy of Sun and Moon, of spirit and soul, is its dramatization through the way certain rooms in your home can be arranged to express the energies of both. By selecting two rooms in your dwelling -- like a bedroom and a living room -- and assigning the physical and psychic properties of Moon to one and Sun to the other, a kind of temple can be set up to honor their respective forces in your daily life. One way to bring authenticity to your Sun/Moon temple is in applying the knowledge of the element of your personal Sun and Moon sign. Are you water, fire, earth or air sign?

When addressing the personal elements of your own birthchart, be specific. For example, if you are a Virgo Moon person, it is the element of Earth (not the general lunar element of water) you may wish to emphasize. If you are a Libra Sun person, it is the element of Air (not the general solar element of fire) that will bring you closer to the sun. How you set up a "Moon chamber" in your home depends as much on your instinct and imagination, as the Sun room will require your understanding and clarity. The thoroughness and passion by which you approach this project will reflect your own current needs and desires for distinguishing these levels in your life and, for realizing them through your daily environment. You may find it easy to create a room dedicated to the Sun but be at a complete loss when it comes to the Moon or, vice versa; if so, know there is truth in this. If a room doesn't come together right away, take a few days or even weeks to let it gradually develop its own life.

Using Your Chart for Temple Construction

If you feel despair or frustration or numbness in reaction to either room, consider these responses as legitimate expressions of where your Sun or your Moon might be at that time; integrate these reactions into the temple, until they are ready to change forms. Let your birthchart also inform your process of temple construction. If your Moon is conjunct your Midheaven, maybe you'll want other people to notice your room; if you have a 12th House Sun, perhaps, you are ritualizing your invisibility. Read the aspects to your Sun and Moon like elements or props to place in the temple, reminding you of the interdynamics at play. If you have Saturn opposing your Moon, place a saturnine prop like a clock or a calendar opposite the altar or focal point in your Moon chamber. If your Sun holds together a T-Square, place the other elements in a similar geometry and tension in that room, as well. It seems that whoever first coined the term "houses" to describe the twelve sections of a birthchart may have had this process in the back of their minds.

Sun and moon rooms don't have to be complicated. Sometimes all it takes to "charge" a space with the lunar or solar energies are subtle adjustments that only you will recognize. Often enough, the more natural adjustments we make in our daily routines begin seeping into the fabric of our lives unnoticed until, the changes they bring, come to fruition. The construction of a Temple of the Sun and the Moon, or the Sun/Moon Temple, in your own home is one way to bring those changes about.



ASTROLOGICAL JUNO

"The Marriage Archetype Reconsidered"

When a sacred pact of love forms between two individuals, sometimes it deepens and seeks formalization through the private and public vows of holy matrimony. This process reflects a commonly held view and ideal of *the marriage archetype*, one of our most revered and often misunderstood traditions. Some people swear by it; others avoid it like the plague. I was married once for four years. My attempts at realizing the ideal of marriage, as I knew it then, culminated in failure and much grief. Since our divorce I've had nine years to think long and hard about the meaning of marriage in my life, and lack thereof. I've passed through a gauntlet of responses, from bone-rattling terror to bitter disdain to a rebirth of real love for the idea yet, the truth remains: *I have been unable to escape the influence of the marriage archetype.*

What has utterly mystified me until just recently is my startling natal conjunction of an Aquarian North Node with JUNO in the Third House. By my own definitions of the north node and Juno, my dharma and life work (north node) is irrevocably wrapped around the marriage archetype (Juno). Its Third House placement compels me to communicate what I know about it. The results? If astrology works (and I believe it does) I must learn to live a lot more consciously with the distinct possibility of *marriage as a life path* and what exactly does "marriage" mean? It's truly humbling how easily self-images disintegrate in the face of greater truths. "Marriage as a life path" is a jagged pill to swallow for any survivor of divorce, moreso when children are involved. I suspect many divorce survivors are aware of the disconcerting fact that you don't really get divorced from someone; you get divorced *to them*, as if divorce itself constituted a smaller subdivision of the larger marriage archetype. Some couples act this pattern out by getting back together after divorce and remarrying. The majority join the dismal statistics of a 50plus% divorce rate and there is something terribly wrong about this.

DISCLOSURE OF A TRAGIC OVERSIGHT

Yet it is happening everywhere and as such, merits our utmost critical attention. Either we learn more about why half the marriages fail or, continue repeating the nightmare of history. If you count yourself among the "marrying kind", consider this Juno inquiry a reality check. In astrological terms, JUNO is the name given to one of four chief asteroids (among hundreds) that Demetra George emphasizes in her well-researched and ground-breaking book, *ASTEROID GODDESSES*. Mythically, Juno (aka Hera) was the wife of Zeus, the so-called "king of the gods". In the face of Zeus' cruel and outrageous philandering, womanizing, jealous rages and domestic violence Juno maintained exemplar levels of commitment, perseverance and marital love. I don't support the Juno metaphor as a literal role model but as a symbol for a living archetype within men and women alike, whose considerable powers of loving perseverance can be astrologically represented by natal Juno.

Whether there's a diamond ring on your finger or not, everybody is married to something. Look to Juno's placement in any person's chart and see if you can discover what that person *is already married to*. Study its planetary aspects to find out more specifically which conditions must be first active in any given intimate relationship before this person can marry into it. Those in the know already realize that marriage between individuals demands more than love; it also takes hard work. Yet, if the individual Juno placements are at odds with each other perhaps very little love or work can "fix it." A marriage may be doomed from the start if the Juno element in each person fails to mesh harmoniously with and then serve the larger marriage bridging a couple to each other and then, a community of others. You cannot impose a fixed structure over a fluid state without dour consequences. Ignore this critical point and run the risk of smothering and crushing the one you love the most.

Pardon my over-simplification of a complex issue but I think the root of the divorce rate problem may be the result of this tragic oversight. Certainly there are compromises and sacrifices to be made in any marriage, internal or external, yet how much of these mask obsolete, outdated "models of relating" inherited from past generations? Each and every zeitgeist has its own ways for expressing the momentum of human evolution. The current era seems already earmarked by its almost unbearable rate of accelerating change. To endure these intense transformations we may have to become more soulful ourselves and more receptive to the internal marriages already engaging the lives of our husbands and wives.

Love makes the world go around and as I mentioned earlier, everybody is married to something. Some people are married to their work, while others are married to their children. Some are married to themselves; others are married to their money. Some people are even married to astrology! Astrology can articulate a mandala of ways to define the marriage archetype when Juno is interpreted through the twelve styles and states. Each of the twelve marriage styles (Juno through the signs) holds an equally valid piece of the marriage puzzle. However from the more subjective view not all of these twelve pieces get along or agree with each other. Some are at cross purposes (the square aspect), while others tend to be confrontive (the opposition aspect); yet even these so-called "difficult aspects" can generate passion and productive energy in any marriage, given that both persons show the maturity for permitting differences and, a healthy spirit for adventure. Astrological correlations for the above are fairly easy to spot.

With Juno in Aries, or in the First House, an individual is married to him or herself; relationships work to the extent they honor their fiercely independent ego. Juno in Taurus, or in the Second House, is married to their esthetics, their money and the security both can bring through their possessions; once basic needs are met, harmonious relations can follow.

Gemini Juno people, or in the Third House, are married to their ideas; once they're heard, understood and conversed with, they stay related. Pushy, bold and spontaneous Aries. Cultivated, refined and dependable Taurus. Curious, fickle and perceptive Gemini. More examples. A Ninth House Juno, or in Sagittarius, is married to their vision and beliefs; a Tenth House Juno, or in Capricorn, to status and to their profession, just as a Virgo Juno is married to their routines. A Cancer Juno is married to their home and/or family life. An Aquarian Juno is married to their freedom and their people, or tribe. Many are the ways the marriage archetype is defined and often times, without us knowing it. If there is some truth to this interpretation of natal Juno, astrologers would do well to incorporate its study into their synastry readings.

The darker side of the Juno mythos might be depicted by the revenge that mythical Juno acted out after discovering her god-husband Zeus' infidelities. Juno did not exact vengeance on Zeus himself, at least not directly. She attacked his consorts and even, their children. Why? Perhaps after eliminating the competition, Zeus would come to his senses and return to the hearth? Hardly; Zeus would just use his powers to find different women. Myths are often difficult to understand. Yet there is a clue here about the message Juno sends out when she feels betrayed. On the surface it might seem she is sending the message to the "other woman" but upon closer observation of Zeus' inflated ego, it is to her husband that these actions seem to scream, "I am your wife, I am everywhere you are. You think I don't know what you're doing? I know you. There is no escaping my presence. We are one."

IF, in a given relationship or marriage, one person's "Juno work" is being compromised or neglected there may be a similar acting out of *indirect rage*, or *resentment*. There is nothing that poisons a love so insipidly as the gradual accumulation over time of little resentments. This alone can cause irreversible emotional damage to any marriage and lest we forget, the Juno/Zeus marriage was never a happy one; it seethed with jealous rage and murderous violence.

So, again, without taking the metaphor too literally there is something to learn about the Juno archetype itself and that is this: *when the internal marriage collapses, the external one is not far behind.* It may be wise then, for the marrying man and woman, to become more fully aware of what the potential husband or wife is already married to before marrying them. Take a good, long look; can you endure what they're married to? This knowledge, however relevant, is not enough. One must cherish, honor and protect what another is married to, so that they do not start resenting you for trying to take that away from them. As the Germanic poet, Rainer Maria Rilke suggests, "*In love, we must become guardians of each other's solitude.*" If, after recognizing and successfully attempting all of this, you can still live with this person then you have perhaps found good marriage material.

If you cannot live with the daily effects of their Juno or remain married to yours, it may be best to withdraw your expectations and break your own heart; that marriage may be doomed from birth. When betrayed, Juno makes one jealous and vengeful wife. As a symbol for determining compatibility between prospective mates, I think astrological Juno has been overlooked and underestimated. In emphasizing the Juno archetype I do not wish to suggest that all you need to know before finding a good husband or wife is the placement of their astrological Juno. Intimate relationships, and the synastry readings astrologers use to interpret them, are far more complex and involved than that. When combined with other key points such as the positions of the Sun, Moon, Venus, Mars, the North and South Nodes, the ASC/DESC axis and other areas, perhaps Juno can round out the mythos growing between two people in love. One such mythos comes as "*the alchemical marriage.*" The alchemy referred to here is of a spiritual nature unconcerned with the prosaic notion of turning literal lead into literal gold. Philosophically, the spiritual alchemist exchanges society's literalist "consensus reality" views of marriage for a more poetic perception of intimacy where Imagination, in the Blakean sense, guides Reason and not the other way around.

By virtue of these awarenesses, alchemical lovers shape and develop a "vessel" between them for containing, mixing, distilling and transforming their own "leaden" habits, attitudes and feelings into the golden rebirth of "an alchemical childe." Like the vessel, this alchemical childe is not a child as we know it; there are no literal containers or beacons and no literal childbirth or child-rearing. The vessel is a symbol for a particular way of life capable of constantly transforming the love between lovers. From these processes come cycles of refined spiritual states giving birth to a love larger, higher and deeper than either individual ego could create or contain by itself: *the alchemical childe.* Tragically, the Church once had the power to crucify those alchemists refusing to conform to their literalist marital structures, branding them as orgiastic, devil-worshipping heretics.

Spiritual alchemy texts were soon coded into obscure, esoteric symbols, which also included easy to read false instructions for turning literal lead into gold. The Churches loved gold and employed spies to infiltrate the alchemy labs to steal the "secret formulas." Alas, none of their stolen experiments produced much more than foul smells and the occasional explosion. Fortunately, we live in more civilized times where our spiritual practices are, for the most part, protected.

The role astrological Juno plays in the opus of an alchemical marriage, and the magical childe it produces, may be one involving *constant self-work* while in the relationship itself. More often than not, it isn't the relationship itself that "needs work" but *the individuals in it.* Too much "relationship processing", or analysis, can drain the love and damage the faith so essential for allowing life to unfold and simply happen; to develop on its own time, in its own way. Spontaneous. Couples who have figured out how to stop picking at the relationship can redeem their love by getting back to the real work of developing themselves. I believe Juno makes a good symbol for what needs developing in an individual before they are ready to marry another and, *to remain married.*

On Maintenance of the Alchemical Marriage

Maintaining this three-way process sanctifies the sacred vessel of the alchemical marriage itself. This is no abstract or theoretical container but a very real, spiritual force that protects, nurtures and guides the union, as long as everyone is doing their part, their particular self-work around natal Juno. Natal Juno provides points to where real self-work can take place (the House Juno lives in) and the specific aspect of oneself that needs developing, or cultivating (Juno's sign) to remain married. It is "real" self-work, and not self-indulgence, by virtue of what one must develop to maintain the inner marriage while bonding with another. Juno's natal sign symbolizes the specific archetype to be *substantiated* so that one's own life can be lived in communion with another, *without betraying oneself in the process*.

Substantiation is an alchemical metaphor addressing any process of accumulating critical mass or generating the "substance of more presence." For example, as a double Scorpio (12 House Sun) male I experience irrational fears of entrapment and am easily threatened by any relationship that feels too comfortable. When I take my Aquarius Juno to heart, I begin substantiating the self-detachment necessary for developing the social, or friendship, levels in the relationship. This often has the effect of dissolving my deep-rooted Scorpionic distrust into camaraderie. Juno's conjunction of my north node in the Third House reminds me how critical communication has always been for sustaining meaningful intimate relations. It also sheds light on something I've always wondered about: Why all my loves have felt *predestined*. No matter how short-lived, ill-fated or wildly blessed, every single one has guided me closer to the dharma of my life work.

THE COMET CHIRON

A Trinary Circuit of Creative Destruction

So much (and so little) has been said and written about this wily comet orbiting betwixt Saturn and Uranus that to refer to it as the "healer", "teacher", "initiate" (Etc.) only adds inertia to redundancy. Therefore, let us not look to past myths and obscure astrological associations for new information. While we're at it, let us also bypass the need to think we know anything at all &/or can know anything for certain. Why ? 1.) Since we're in the Subatomic Age of Relativity, why not get used to the idea of permitting more uncertainty ? 2.) Conceptual frameworks rooted in the unknown tend to honor unknowns.

Often the characteristics identifying the energetic intention of an astrological force can be read by noticing what happened here on Earth when it was discovered. Chiron was discovered the same year as *The SEX PISTOLS: 1977*. Now, you don't have to appreciate hardcore punk nihilism to recognize the enormous impact it made on the contemporary music scene, the international fashion industry and the role models of today's rebellious youth (especially the so-called Gen-Xers with their Pluto/Uranus conjunctions). The SEX PISTOLS came and went yet, like untraceable subatomic particles...were only truly evaluated after-the-fact by the trails they left behind. Like a fast burning comet, they reveled in their temporary and fiercely self-determined life span. It seems every generation has its "socially subversive" types or misfits that refuse and/or are unable to conform to the dress and behavior standards set by the majority of its time, ie.: Beatniks (Fifties), Hippies (Sixties), Punks (Seventies), New-Agers (Eighties). I see Chiron as a kind of Patron Saint of the Lunatic Fringe guiding rebellious, "social mutants" who are busy stretching the outer limits of their local gene pools via personal discontent with the status quo and a thirst for new information, fresh experience and self-discovery. Between Saturn and Uranus, this force seems to do best within structures permitting optimal autonomy.

Chiron's natal placement beckons a wild and untamable courage to blaze its own frontiers. Wild child of Saturn and Uranus, Chiron is possessed by each; stolidly determined and electrically unpredictable. Since Chiron was discovered during the Punk Movement, it's only natural to ask: What is "punk" and, where were you in 1977? The "punk quality," seems (to the Punk Within) **spiritually anarchistic and playfully sinister**. Spiritual anarchy is somewhat apolitical (unless you're cynical enough to think that everything is political, especially "spiritual" movements). Punks outright reject spoonfed beliefs about anything...especially God, Morality and all forms of prefabricated dogma about "Life". The primitivist punk spirit demands its information first-hand, sledgehammer direct and blunt as birth. There's something unsettled and destabilizing about punk intentions.

As Barbara Clow notes in her well-researched book (CHIRON; Llewellyn Press), "Chiron's primary role is to **destabilize** and infuse Saturnine form with Uranian energy." Destabilizing can be a lot of fun when you know what you're doing, as Greg Hill did when he wrote PRINCIPIA DISCORDIA (Loompanics Press) and introduced two styles of annihilation: 1) Destructive destruction and 2) Creative destruction. Style #2 became the crux of Discordianism, an ontological ancestor of punk.

Punk is playfully sinister in a similar way that Cabalists (notably, Paul Foster Case) relate THE DEVIL card in the Tarot to the consciousness symbolized by AYIN (the 16th Hebrew letter), meaning "mirth." The **mischievous charm of mirth** serves to dissolve those mental complexes impeding direct-knowledge of our vitalistic source of life: the human body. The function of mirth is reiterated in the brilliant symbolism of Henry Miller when he announced that: "Laughter is the most direct route to God, filling our heads with light as we go..." Perhaps the satyr, or the centaur phase of our human psychological development, refers to Chiron. Semantically, the word *satire* comes from satyr, the goat-man-god (Capricorn/Saturn) sacrificed to the Earth Mother (Taurus) in ancient pagan rituals. Ironically, or chirologically, the word "tragedy" comes from tragos, or goat-song. Tell me that someone named "Johnny Rotten" didn't have a sense of humor.

Chiron symbolizes the intelligence operating between skeletal and nervous systems. As Saturn rules the skeletal system and Uranus, the electrical, it is no coincidence that **chiro-practices** engage the study and manipulation of their intersection in the **spinal column**. Chiropractics are, quite literally, avant-garde chirotic technical adjusters. (Before Chiron was discovered, chiropractic treatment was still not totally accepted as "legitimate" by much of the established medical community). Perhaps this is what Barbara Clow meant in her book when she emphasized the possibility of Virgo ruling Chiron and its relationship to the Sixth/Twelfth State polarity.

As we follow this trajectory, the association between the spinal column and the kundalini serpent power it contains, grows unavoidable. My sense is that the chirotic force is most directly felt in our capacity for *resonance*...that *instant way of knowing* you are connected to something or someone without needing to know or explain how or why. The Chirotic force is very sexy in this way. **It's as though our eroticism was rooted in the mystery of our resonance with realms beyond ego**. Chiron acts as a kind of messenger (hence the Virgo/Mercury connection) or conductor between the Uranian *lightbody* (as differentiated from but related to the "dreambody" of Neptune) and...the Saturnine *timebody*. According to Quantum Mechanics, events in the time-space continuum are governed by "non-local" (beyond time and space) strata of subatomic activity. This means there's a possibility of invisible sources determining visible phenomena.

If it's true that visible, manifest phenomena also informs and influences its invisible counterpart somehow, then Chiron symbolizes the mediating function making this possible. Integral to the connecting fibre, or circuitry, between the visible (personal) and invisible (transpersonal) is a kind of relay system that can be said to be ruled and operated by Chiron. Since the invisible governs the visible, it can be said to program or design it as well. Chiron then, refers to that function of consciousness capable of **translating transpersonal signals into personal messages** and vice versa. For now, we'll call this bridging function between local and non-local sectors, *Chiron*.

The prefix "chiro" comes from the Greek *cheiros*, for "hand." Chiromancy, or palmistry, is the study of the hand as a means of divining and interpreting character and personality. Chirography, or graphology, refers to the art, style and character of handwriting and the ability to detect the personality traits of its writer. Chiromantic is the ability to know and distinguish the left and right sides of the body. In bilateral brain theory, too much has been said about the left (linear/Saturn) and right (radial/Uranus) hemispheres without mentioning their interconnecting ganglia, **the corpus callosum** (intermediating/Chiron).

Chiron delivers **non-local information** (Uranus) to our local **consensus reality models** (Saturn). If we are sensitive to non-local input, we can respond by following instructions through to action. The study of genetics provides a metaphor for this chirotic relay system. DNA, the immortal element of our own nature, informs the Central Neural System (which informs the muscular body) where and how we are to evolve its genetic intention of living forever. The traditional response to DNA's message is to mate, have babies and raise offspring; we are DNA's way of knowing itself. Now, to deviate a bit: to what degree are we mere **robots for DNA** and to what extent have we learned to fulfill DNA's immortalist agenda without procreating the species ?!

Immortalism is becoming more relevant due to current species threats such as AIDS, overpopulation and so forth. Genetic engineers (and other chirotic technicians) are working diligently to fortify the immune system not only to cure AIDS and slow down procreation but to extend life indefinitely. Yesterday, what we called "coincidence", we are more willing to define today (especially after repeat performances) as "synchronicity." Perhaps, tomorrow it will be referred to as *skill*. Synchronicity (Uranus) as a discipline (Saturn) is the inherent chirotic attribute of being at the right place at the right time *on purpose*. In plain English, it's called good timing. When it's done on purpose, the results look like damn good stage magic. To paraphrase a famous science-fiction author whose name I cannot recall right now, "*What we call magic is actually technology we don't yet understand or comprehend.*"

THE QUINCUNX & THE YOD

"On Irritation, Ego Development & Surrender"

When it comes to geometry; angles never lie. I prefer to interpret those geometric angles shared between forces (planets), as **communication lines**; within ourselves (in the natal chart), with the cosmos (with transits) and in relation to another and groups (in synastry comparisons). I believe all astrological aspects symbolize a spectrum of communication processes; some easy, some difficult, and some elusive. These angles represent how parts of ourselves talk with other parts of ourselves and, where we are in conversation with the cosmos (symbolized by transits and progressions). Speak with reality and reality tends to speak back.

Like other aspects, the *quincunx* represents a communication angle. If you're accustomed to relating in a fairly open, direct and overt manner, the quincunx in motion can prove elusive and even misleading. To the untrained eye, the 150 degree angle can act, feel and look like a 180 degree opposition yet, the quincunx can never be an opposition. The quincunx is *almost* an opposition yet lacks the across-the-board, confrontational quality of the opposition. To better grasp the feeling of a quincunx, imagine (or enact this, if you are in a group) standing in a circle with eleven others facing the center. Look straight across to the person directly in front of you for the 180 degree opposition. Fix your attention there; get a sense of the person to their right and to their left for the 150 degree quincunx points. The quincunx expresses an *elliptical angle*; from the word "ellipsis", meaning "to show omission", as in omission from an expression of a word clearly implied. The quincunx reflects an *implicit* process of communication, just as an opposition expresses something more explicit.



The Slippery, Elliptical Quincunx

The elliptical quincunx has its own kinetic properties, as if it were saying, "*to communicate with me is to yield to me.*" Delicately unstable, the quincunx angle wavers as if coaxing an adjustment from whatever is being quincunxed. Confronting the quincunx too directly -- *within oneself or with another* -- often results in a kind of hit and miss, communication slippage, or misunderstanding. If this pattern sounds familiar, especially with some people more than others, check your charts for a shared quincunx or three. From the point of view of the Ascendant, the Sixth and Eighth State governors delineate two 150 degree quincunxes. The 6th State governor symbolizes what is meant to *serve* the Ascendant, as the 8th State refers to what *catalyzes change* in that Ascendant. The 8th State governor acts as "death", or transformation, to the Rising sign while the 6th State style fortifies that same Rising sign by working for it and tending to its needs. Sixth and Eighth State governors share an amiable sextile aspect. When coupled with the Ascendant, this creates a "yod", or finger of god, configuration. A yod shows us which signs share a natural quincunx, as well as, their positions relative to the roles of *catalyst*, *catalyzed* and *fortifying* influences. Now for a somewhat more personal example.

Probably the most consistently disconcerting reaction shared between myself and a very close Gemini friend whom I shall call "S, has been how intensely *irritated* we could feel in each other's company. Despite our deep mutual feelings of love and respect, we could also fight like cats and dogs. When we were good, we were very, very good; when we were bad, we were very, very bad. This emotional yo-yo effect has often exhausted our reasons for staying related. No matter how many ways we tried to make it work -- *with shared plans, rules, ideas, dreams, goals* - - we met with more irritation and slippage. No effort from either of us could we stop our communication processes from slip-sliding into misunderstanding; neither of us could stop this bedeviling involvement merely by wanting to. We broke up many times over, only to kiss & make up and slip-slide all over, again.

Our natal charts also share multiple quincunxes. Her Gemini Sun/Jupiter/Mercury also conjuncts my 8th House cusp, while my Scorpio Sun/ASC conjuncts her 8th House cusp; spooky stuff. Her Aries Venus inconjuncts my Sun/ASC and her Gemini Mars shares a quincunx with my Mars in Capricorn. No matter where we go: the quincunx. Gemini catalyzes Scorpio. I am struck by how much I resist change. What? A Scorpio resist change? Being born a particular Sun sign doesn't qualify one as an expert in that archetype. More likely, it tells you what is necessary for Self-realization. As any hot-blooded, self-realizing Scorpio eventually discovers, there is no realization without surrender. As a double Scorpio with an American male ego, I had my work cut out for me. Either I stopped resisting the changes S. put me through (by simply being her Gemini self) or, leave the building. *Surrender or leave the building.* By leaving, nothing changed except losing an opportunity to grow. If I stayed and didn't surrender, I'd end up projecting my negative resistance to change onto S., which only vilified her in my own mind. That stupidity created more pain than either of us could bear. With enough suffering, I finally relaxed some of my scorpionic attachment to the illusion of control and surrendered to the changes S. put me through.

This did not imply surrendering *to her* -- another dead end -- but to the transformative effects her sprightly Gemini presence had on my more solemn Scorpio self. A mantra emerged: *Do it until you get it right.* I have a feeling that this thing called "*ego*" is something humanity inherited and/or created a need for fairly recently. After Sigmund Freud named the ego, a chain reaction of assumptions have developed about its nature and function in our lives. One of the more compassionate versions comes from the late Buddhist meditation master Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche. Trungpa suggested that if we figure ego out, the rest pretty much falls into place. This has inspired me to find new ways to identify the positive and spiritual function of ego. *What is ego for? Why is it here? Who are we, anyway?*

Ritual Sacrifice of Ego

I believe this thing called ego emerged out of an ancient ritual from our tragic history as a species. The word, *tragedy*, comes from *tragos* or goat song, and refers to early pantheistic rituals in which the goat-god was fed, fattened and sacrificed as an offering to the Earth Mother. Global cultures have practiced variations of this sacrificial ritual for thousands of years and, some continue to do so today. Fast-forward to present-time. Imagine a futuristic version of this ancient rite. Let the ego be the "goat" to be identified and accepted for what it is: *an image* of Self, or God, nothing more and nothing less. Its ritual purpose? To be fed, fortified and developed until ripe for the offering. Offered to what? To God; to Life, to more Self-realisation. This relationship with ego supports its role in a larger process than its own self-centered justifications for existing. To understand this as a concept is not enough, however, to implement its actualization. To do the work, there must first exist a certain willingness to disillusion yourself; to expose yourself to yourself. In time, this intentional self-disillusionment can develop into its own kind of enlightenment for *seeing through yourself*; through all the images and icons held of yourself and the world, inherited from childhood on.

After detecting, accepting, fortifying, outgrowing and finally surrendering the plethora of self-images and ego ideals accumulated by decades of cultural conditioning, we are left with a more streamlined version of who we actually are. I think there may be a way to use this yod configuration to detect this ancient sacrificial ritual of transformation as it occurs in our daily lives. Let each astrological sign represent an "*ego style*" when placed on the Ascendant. Let its natural 6th state governor represent what fortifies and develops this ego. Let the 8th state governor symbolize what triggers growth, surrender and change in that Ascendant ego. The stage is now set; you have only to observe life happen and take note. I might add that actual ego sacrifice and transformation depends entirely on that ego Ascendant's *choice* to offer itself up; *its conscious choice to surrender*.

When Change is Interpreted as Death

If and when ego resists surrender, take notice the *self-emphasizing behavior* of negative emotions: irritation, anxiety, panic and outwardly projected paranoia. As long as ego resists change, it inflames, irritates, implodes and stagnates. *But this is not ego's fault*; it may not have the support it needs to choose surrender over resistance. My own resistance to the changes S. catalyzed in me relaxed after I accepted the fortifying archetype of her *Venus in Aries*. It seems that my irritating negative projections blinded me to the simple fact that S. actually liked me; in her spontaneous Arian way, she also loved me. As I allowed her love, my anxiety diminished and eventually vanished. My insecurities were all self-generated by my Scorpio ego's resistance to her catalytic Gemini presence. As her Aries love (Venus) fortified my Scorpio ego (Sun/ASC), I lightened up and chose to yield to the changes, intrigued by their endless possibilities.

This yod design works the other way around, as well. My Virgo Moon serves her Aries Ascendant as a fortifying influence, just as my Scorpio Sun acts as an 8th state catalyst to her Aries Ascendant ego. By communicating to her my needs (Moon), her Aries ego is given the choice to fulfill them or tell me to fulfill them myself. This transaction gives her that sense of control an Aries Rising typically appreciates when moving through the changes catalyzed by my double Scorpio presence. Without my Virgo Moon support, however, that Aries ego digs its heels in more resentment and irritation.

Until ego has a chance to be accepted and developed for a larger purpose than its own narcissistic self-emphasis, I think interprets change as threat; in its extreme, ego interprets change as death itself. By superimposing this yod configuration over real life situations, I think it is possible to begin determining one can determine what area needs support or fortification and what point serves the development and sustenance of that area, as well as where the source of catalyzation is coming from.

BLACK MOON RISING

"Depression as a Symptom of the Creative State"

One way to revision astrology-as-most-people-know-it is relaxing this over-rated fixation on Sun signs and redirecting it onto the Moon. The astrological Moon constitutes a multi-textural symbology of depth and complexity representing what is most personal to us and most personal **about us**. I'm taking the Moon to symbolize the multi-layered textures of "the homing instinct"; from our most literal dwelling place to early upbringing to how one feels most "at home" anywhere and onto what constitutes familiarity and emotional shelter in every way imaginable. Once in awhile -- sometimes daily -- everybody strays and loses touch with the familiar comfort zones of their Moon to drift disconnected into genuinely weird, and sometimes depressing, states.

My chosen focus in this essay is, what I'm calling, the "black moon" phase and how we come to know that experience through symptoms of depression, despair and feelings of hopelessness. *Caveat Emptor*. I am uninterested in merely furthering anyone's understanding of pat, symbolic truths. I encourage your open and direct knowledge, or experience, of what I'm writing about no matter how "difficult" or "inconvenient" that state may become. Use your birth chart as a map for getting "home" when things get weird. Know where your Moon is. A few words on the state of depression. **Depression is not an emotion.** More precisely, depression is an **utter absence of emotion**. An emotional flatness characterizes a depressed, or deflated, state. By comparison, grief and sorrow are lively. With real depression there is no emotional color, only flatter shades of black. Black, blacker, blackest. This blackness refers to that process of losing touch with your emotional responsiveness -- *your real time connection with reality*. This is as natural as a woman's menses cycle yet, modern society -- *friends, parents, teachers* -- never taught us how to accept depression as an ordinary event. When depressed, we are instead conditioned to believe something is "wrong" with us.

THE ART OF FALLING APART

Instead of feeling our way through our depressions, we become hypochondriac negativity adepts "making a bad thing worse" or emotional escape artists "refusing to feel anything unpleasant." This pattern of denial functions so smoothly within a severely limited emotional range that it eventually adapts a behavior of false shame and modesty around who we really are. **We are truly giants raised as dwarves.** Emotional self-victimization is often propagated by **depression naivete**, ie., avoiding and resisting depression. Natural cycles of real life express ongoing processes of decay and dissolution vital to regeneration; no life without death; no death without rebirth. It's as if Life-at-large requires periodic phases of ego-collapse. It's logical to assume that the quality, style and frequency of that collapse differs for each person. Some people need to "die" more often than others; mystics choose to die every day. Other people get by falling apart once during every lunar cycle or so. The frequency may depend more on how alive you actually are and how much "death" you need to renew that life; the greater the life, the greater the need for collapsing that life when it gets old. By postponing the black moon phase, depression merely accumulates more momentum and gravity.

With enough avoidance, what starts out depressed turns blacker, heavier and then with further resistance, blacker still. How black does it have to get before you're ready to fall apart? Our modern society shows a grave absence of "black moon rituals" and other "arts for falling apart" to honor and dignify the state of depression. Unfortunately or fortunately, there are no "depression bibles" out there to show you how to fall apart on purpose even if that's what you feel like doing. You have to create your own rituals. Observe the species' wisdom in the younger generation with Pluto in Libra (born Oct. 1971 through Dec. 1983), and among some of those born with Pluto conjunct Uranus, who are creating their own black moon rites with shocking fashion statements, utterly depressing dress codes and the hardcore "gothic industrial" music they listen and dance to (Nine Inch Nails, Etc.).

When emotionally depressed, we're not usually encouraged to stick with it; not by ourselves or society or our friends. There are just too many diversions and distractions yet, if embraced wholeheartedly, **commitment to black moon follow-through** can eventually transform depression. The black moon phase can also unfold more gracefully given enough knowledge around your emotional needs, symbolized by the placement of your natal Moon (the house) and its information-rich resource for getting back in touch with reality; specifically, your personal style (your Moon sign) of moment-to-moment responsiveness.

Another misunderstood yet potentially informative condition of the black moon phase -- of losing your Moon -- is **despair**. Despair expresses an emotional state of hopelessness, where we feel helpless to change that condition. The key to understanding despair is observing the distinction between **being helpless** and our **genuine feelings of helplessness**. Notice how easily, how effectively, we hypnotize ourselves into emotional immobility and self-victimization by self-imposed convictions of "being helpless" when, in fact, we may be denying our true feelings to a real situation. Feeling helpless is a natural enough response to any situation exposing the limitations of our personal efforts. No matter how hard we try sometimes, our personal efforts will fall short of success. Feeling helpless continues as a healthy emotional response to a personally difficult situation.

Our feelings of helplessness originated from infancy. The bonding imprints developed with our mother (or surrogate) determined the nature and severity of those helpless feelings. Some of this process may express itself through the sign and placement of your natal Moon. Is your Moon smothered by conjunctions to other forces (planets)? Is it unaspected and alone? Is it connected with other forces by hard aspects or easy ones? Your personal style of dealing with helpless feelings pretty much determines how you move through them and everyone does that differently. Sometimes, your natal Moon tells you how that happens.

Despair acts as a symptom of the denial of these feelings. If you do not create space in your life for these feelings of helplessness -- when confronting insurmountable odds -- the odds are that your own emotional stupidity will overcome you. Some people run over their denial of helpless feelings by pumping themselves up way out of proportion and pushing, forcing and attempting to overpower the opposition; others express their denial by their self-created, downward spiral collapse into despair. Whatever your style of denial, you have lost touch with your Moon and it is only a matter of time before the universe reminds you. The Moon also represents the living organism of you which, courtesy of DNA and other mysterious connective tissues, has you attached to all living things. When your Moon slips out of reach and the black moon phase begins, the universe listens and responds.

IMMEDIACY, NOT IMMEDIATE GRATIFICATION

In this society of giants raised as dwarves many of us are held to emotionally immature behavior despite our sophisticated ideas of who we are and want to become. Emotional maturity cannot be forced or made to happen by anything the conceptual mind creates for that purpose. Emotions simply follow their own rules; they are a not mental issue. Emotional maturity depends more on a certain kind of emotional responsibility and I don't mean this popular conception of "owning your feelings"; who can own anything so ephemeral and unpredictable as emotions? Emotional responsibility seems to me a willingness to make a definite commitment to **remaining responsive to immediacy**, as if your emotional response-ability depended on it. This also demands a deepening commitment to present-time living so that your moment-to-moment responses are connected to actual events and situations and less from past habit patterns and the monkey-grip of emotional memory. Your most direct and personal responsiveness to present-time life experiences expresses a commitment to the value of **immediacy**. Returning to a greater immediacy gives the soul -- that invisible, indescribably force nurtured by our emotions -- a more direct outlet of expression in the world.

living life with a greater sense of immediacy, a soul makes more meaningful connection with the community and surrounding world. Without this type of immediate world-involvement, a soul remains shackled down in the darker recesses of our so-called subconscious minds, sadly waiting release. To clarify this term, "immediacy" has nothing whatsoever to do with the consumer purchasing power of instant, or immediate, gratification which only acts as a cheap dime store decoy substitute. Real immediacy involves more direct and unmediated -- unmedia -- experience. The innate hunger and need for greater immediacy in our lives may be our strongest and most effective weapon/tool in the revolution raging during these 'dreamtime media soul wars.' The natal moon, by its representation of where and how our feelings become known, contribute to the information our misinformed intellects need to join the fight against emotional stupidity and violence to ourselves.



Peculiar Mercury Retrograde

On Remembering to Remember

How many times have you seen people (especially astrologers) behave in a peculiar way when Mercury goes retrograde? I mean peculiar as in the self-created anxiety attacks -- *Oh, no, Mercury's retrograde!* -- or gestures of personal resignation; *Let's not do anything until Mercury goes direct!* I've often wondered, perhaps naively, what the fuss was all about until deciding to conduct several experiments of my own during Mercury retrogrades. What I discovered was also peculiar in the way the faculty of memory is peculiar. Times of Mercury retrograde seem to demand a greater dependence on memory to solve my daily problems and to communicate more effectively with others. Without working my memory, communications did tend to "short-circuit" or "cross wires". So, I saw what the fuss was all about but was dismayed that I found nothing written, no books, about how to respond more creatively to this unusual opportunity for *self-remembering*.

The timing of Mercury retrograde rings like a bell in a Zen monastery reminding the monks walking the grounds to remember the moment before them and to wake up to their own existence in this moment as it passes before them. The bell rings perhaps once or twice before most of the monks respond, and then it is really the body's memory of the sound that reminds them; they remember the bell and respond with more awareness. We can only remember each moment as the next moment is already replacing the last in an ongoing eternal now. What we think is present time is actually our memory of present time. I do not mean to spout Zen koans as much as state a truth often taken for granted. When Mercury goes retrograde, people tend to stumble over their passing moments to the extent they are not working to remember them. During Mercury retrograde, *memory is everything*. Mercury retrograde works as a kind of memory test. The blunders we make during Mercury retrograde, with words especially, may indicate the degree of self-remembering lacking in those instances.

It's safe to assume that most astrologers accept Mercury as a symbol of the intellect and that this intellect shows many attributes. When functioning it solves problems, translates experience into information, thinks and informs the mind about what to say and write, and develops complex modes of conceptual interaction with itself and other intellects. At the rudimentary level, intellect enables us to learn and to educate ourselves. It's our way of processing information. And, lest we forget, all information is processed, organized and made accessible to recall through memory. During the time of Mercury retrograde it is my assumption that the information levels of the universe undergo increasing complexity and density, demanding more effort on the behalf of its human translators to process a little than usual with more research, more recall and more memory. I use the computer as a loose but yet effective analogy: to run heavier loads of information at higher speeds, you must add more memory. If you don't the computer slows down significantly or fails to function at all and it's time for a memory upgrade. Sounds like Mercury retrograde to me.

The chief spiritual function of the intellect rests in the capacity of paying attention. Any intellect that has forgotten how to stop, look and listen has already developed a learning problem. In its more advanced stages of myopia, the frenzied intellect shuts down and fragments under stress of its own closed systems and assumptions. This fragmentation contributes to such familiar symptoms as loss of concentration, a slowness or difficulty in learning new concepts, an ongoing repetition of similar errors, and a propensity to interrupt the conversations of others. The solution to these problems depends on your personal commitment to paying attention to whatever is happening and the mental fortitude to register *that it is happening*. Developing the intellectual function of the "silent witness" can allow for new kinds of learning, which is to say learning new ways to keep learning. The silent witness is the same thing as an open mind. Its foil is the critic, judge or persecutor, depending on how imbalanced or paranoid a mind has become.

During times of Mercury retrograde, we can discover the degree our critics, judges and persecutors are attempting to control our communication processes by the failures created in our attempts -- or lack thereof -- for reaching others. We are reminded how difficult it is to communicate at all unless we are willing to do the footwork and research; to "upgrade memory and download more density". The clanging bells of a Mercury retrograde period are, in effect, opportunities for checking in with how conscious we are. If we resist the work of self-remembering, it is safe to assume that communications will run haywire as the ill-prepared intellect scrambles or shuts down in a futile attempt to process new density. When you hear astrologers say, "Oh, no, Mercury's retrograde!" what they really mean is, "*Oh, no, what a lazy mind I have.*"



THE NODAL AXIS

When Synchronicity Becomes a Skill



When the simultaneous convergence of apparently random fates and directions coincide in the same time and space, we have coincidence. It happens all the time in the movies and often enough in real life for those fortunate enough to be at the right place at the right time. I refer to benevolent coincidence; not the misfortune of being at the right place at the wrong time. When does benevolent coincidence cease being merely coincidental? When it happens more often than not. As iconoclastic author Robert Anton Wilson has said, with increasing repetition coincidence starts looking like damn good stage magic, revealing what Carl G. Jung called synchronicity. When was the last time you caught a glimpse of the underlying interconnectedness cohering all things? When life rotates with the clockwork precision of a well-oiled slot machine on the verge of a jackpot, synchronicity is in the air.

I think our awareness of synchronicity increases as we get closer to our centers; that here and now place where synchronicity may very well be the standard time zone. What does it mean to be in our centers, on target and on track? How do we realize our true calling and destiny? People seek astrologers for these difficult answers. Sometimes we find our calling by being thrown off center and totally missing our marks. If we survive Life's more hazardous detours, it may be by grace of a wisdom for learning what not to do next time. The nodal axis -- north and south node of the Moon -- can inform us how and where we can get closer to our centers. It can also show us where, when too much synchronicity overwhelms us, we can return to the safety of more familiar habit patterns. It can also show us how, by playing it too safe we cut ourselves off from the progress demanded by destiny. The circus provides an apt metaphor for the Multidimensional Self; picture your astrology chart as the center ring of the greatest show on Earth.

A VORTEX OF NOVELTY

Behold: Jupiter's Clowns, Pluto's Human Cannonball, Neptune's Mutant Side-Show Acts, Ringmaster Saturn and the High-Wire Act of our Nodal Axis! Like a trapeze artist, our consciousness swings between north and south nodes subjecting us to the thrills and chills of a highly personal, charged polarity. It is charged with the negative and positive karma of our **primary resistances and excitements** (respectively). It is personal when it pinpoints our greatest strengths and weaknesses while opening the door to our future evolution. We are beckoned forward by the event horizon of our north node into terra incognito; a vortex of novelty, a tough turf so new and exotic to our habits that we may forever feel like tourists there no matter how long we stay. The familiar home turf of our south node's state and style acts as a safety net for the tightrope walker. Woven from strengths and talents inherited from past-life incarnations and current life upbringing, this net symbolizes what is given about us and provides relief from over-exposure to the growth periods catalyzed by the north node. Sometimes, we get stuck in the north node area. Like a trapeze artist, our head spins from the intoxicating heights; we lose our balance and we fall anyway.

The placement of the south node conveys a digestive style to "stomach" and process our more novel north node experiences. However, if the south node is made into a absolute goal, the safety net snags us like a happy fisherman's catch and we become food for the moon. By traversing between the north node's evolutionary imperatives and the south node's assimilation zone, consciousness begins to synthesize its polarity into an ongoing dynamic called *a life*; *the nodal axis tells us how to get a life!* As all new experience emerges in the Here and Now, the north node represents a gateway to present time challenges. By using our south node's spiritual and genetic heritage as a back-up resource, we start the precarious yet exhilarating quest for navigating our future(s). By accepting the strengths and habit patterns innate to the south node, it is possible to permit greater degrees of novelty and uncertainty elicited by north node engagement.

THE BALANCING ACT OF THE NODAL AXIS

We feel safe enough to take more risks. In this way, the south node reveals the style and state of our *karma*; where loose ends must be tied up and stitched into the weave of our safety net, to catch and cushion our free falls from the north node's heights. The south node can then serve a larger process than becoming an ultimate goal, or false destiny (unless your fate depends on repeating your strengths and accumulating layers of immobilizing inertia). Cancer (or 4th State) south node symbolizes "mama karma"; meeting others' needs before it's ready to step out on its own (Capricorn or 10th State). Leo (or 5th State) south node has "kid karma", living in its own world before entering the real world of other people (Aquarius or 11th State north node).

Virgo (or 6th State) south node's "job karma" must figure out how to make its work serve more immaterial states and values (Pisces or 12th State north node). Libra (or 7th State) south node has "partner karma" for attracting those relations that support its own individual identity (Aries or 1st State north node). The south node is unusually easy to over-emphasize; it's where the term "overkill" takes on new meaning. As such, this area is prone to generate inertia when made too important. Each of the previous south node examples has its own path of regression whenever it's confused for our destiny (as typified by the north node). Cancer south node often victimizes itself by forsaking its own needs. Leo's is immobilized by the redundancy of its own creations. Virgo is boxed in by paralysis of analysis. Libra suffers breakdowns in relationships that do not support its singular being. When appropriate relationship to the south node is established (not making it a goal), it can also act as a kind of radar for receiving what is karmically *owed to us*. Yes, the world owes us something and when we learn to get out of our way, we get what we deserve direct from *The No Coincidences Dept.*

When Taurus south node stops making security a goal, we receive the stability it already has but has taken for granted. As Capricorn south node relaxes the striving for status, recognition arrives with dignity, not pressure. As an Aries south node ceases self-emphasizing, we can learn to readjust ego-building to ego-bridging by empowering the beloved. The south node's heritage demands an acceptance and integration of our given talents and strengths. It also necessitates a working knowledge of our most habitual tendencies as grist for the mill of the north node's vortex of novelty. One symptom of an over-emphasized south node shows up as **excessive familiarity**. When the world starts appearing too predictable and painfully banal, we are dwelling too long in our south node. The north node carries clues for shocking ourselves out of this "familiarity trance" when we learn how to *alter the expected*. By activating conditions replicating our futuristic north node (its aspects and placement), we discover how to break up inertia and restore mobility to our lives. The north node represents a critical challenge point in the chart. Things are supposed to be difficult and even strange where we are asked to leave the familiar and improvise.

This doesn't mean we can't be competent around the north node; we can. By entering this area on purpose, knowing we can fall back into the south node safety-net anytime, we are more likely to keep returning to the Hot, New Turf. When we're in touch with what is genuinely new, our awareness of the present time expands and our future opens up. Due to the organism's innate sense of its inevitable death, anxiety occurs whenever we're unable to determine some semblance of a future for ourselves; the body experiences intense change and novelty as death. When north node anxiety levels reach unbearable proportions, we enter a High Anxiety Lifestyle.

As the south node is related to our karmic past, the north node is a gateway to our Future Self, that part of our totality that has already realized its destiny and guides the Rest Of Us to catch up. *We have already happened.*

Fate and destiny are two words commonly confused to mean the same thing. "Fate", as defined here, is *whatever happens, always unknown until it occurs*. "Destiny" is how we choose to approach our fate with a *vision of purpose*. Creation myths aside, nobody knows how people arrived here on planet Earth yet it is our shared fate to inhabit this planet together. Individual and collective destiny is determined by how we envision to relate, respond and act with this fate. The fate of planets is to spin on their trajectory orbits around the sun; a planet's destiny is how it responds and what it develops on the way. Same with people. I think the *state* our north node inhabits symbolizes where our life is going *no matter what*; fate. Its *style* conveys something of the destiny we're here to realize as a response to our fate. Of course, this depends on the courage and commitment shown for realizing these astrological tendencies. Synchronicity becomes a kind of skill, if you will, as the challenge of the north node is embraced and as we retreat into the familiar south node to process the new input. Throughout the ongoing integration of the nodal axis, a kind of humanization occurs in the expanding openness to our strengths and frailties. *We are not human beings having spiritual experiences but spiritual beings having human ones.*

As we grow more comfortable with the north node, two things tend to occur: 1) It becomes easier for others to accept us more for who we are; we step out into more vulnerable, open spaces 2) We learn to update our south node habits to coincide with north node present-time demands. The more consciously we participate in developing our destiny, the more we determine our futures. Synchronicity reminds us how much or how little we are on track by the degree of our good or bad timing. Are we picking up the knack for being at the right place at the right time or are we spinning our wheels in redundancy? Though good and bad timing are subjective assessments, we know when something's amiss by how much we're getting in our own way and perhaps, everybody's else's. The squeaky wheel needs the most attention. Sometimes, the only thing we can do to correct the problem of getting "in our own way" is total self-honesty: confess our habits and errors and get on with it.

WRESTLING WITH SATURN *Consensus Reality Or Reality-Challenged ?*

Reality. *What a concept.* Yet, how this concept is defined determines much of what passes for a life, not to mention a world view. Change the concept of reality and you can change the course and vision of an entire life. This thing called "reality" can be very slippery this way. If your concept of it strays too far from mainstream socially-accepted ideations, you risk losing collective support for your "separate reality." Compared with consensus reality, your views might seem esoteric or "occult" and more often subject to misunderstanding. If your concepts conform too much to the hub of public opinion, you risk losing your autonomous capacity for original thought and with it, a life you can call your own. For a moment, let AQUARIUS represent the "consensus reality", or lowest common denominator, of collective consciousness; "what most people tend to agree with". This, of course, changes from culture to culture yet each society has its own local customs and social protocol for organizing, maintaining and controlling that collective. The opposing LEO archetype might symbolize individuals and groups that fail to fit in or follow society's rules; the misfits, criminals, artists, outsiders, visionaries, and anarchists; in a phrase, the *"reality-challenged."*

My own life has been slam-dunked into a reality-challenged bias for as long as I can remember. If it wasn't for my artistic outlets I'd surely be dead, hospitalized or incarcerated. Art and to some extent astrology, has helped me relate (and redeem) my fringe-dwelling visions to larger social contexts. These visions ring true to me yet I can't expect they'll ring true for "most people." Real life situations overflow with colorful examples of how astrological archetypes act themselves out. If you thrill at the freedom of driving fast cars (Uranus) beyond your local speed limit, it's just a matter of time before Saturn shows up dressed like a cop to write you a ticket. Then, you either pay Saturn (the city) or make an appointment with Jupiter (the judicial system) to contest the charges.

Reality Is What You Get Away With

Or, throw away the ticket and pretend it never happened (Neptune). The force that astrology calls "Saturn" can be detected wherever limitations, boundaries and "reality structures" serve to contain, control and direct life forces (be that through a person or a society). When this Saturn force becomes over-emphasized, the life force it attempts to organize grows restricted, repressed and eventually imprisoned. When the value of the Saturn force is **under-rated**, the same life force disperses into increasing levels of chaos. The dramatic increase of inner-city gangs is now known to be directly related to the absence of jobless fathers (futile Saturns) during the formative years of a gangsta's life. A symbiosis between these two extremes seems ideal, given that each are permitted and eventually, embraced. How can consensus reality and a reality-challenged bias work together? A reality-challenged life is born from an improvisatory talent for making up the rules as you go. When the socioeconomic structures that you create somehow manage to engage society and the world at large in mutually beneficial ways (AQUARIUS), **congratulations**. You are working, living and playing by your own rules within the larger framework of consensus social reality. When you find freedom within this form, *"reality" is defined as what you get away with*

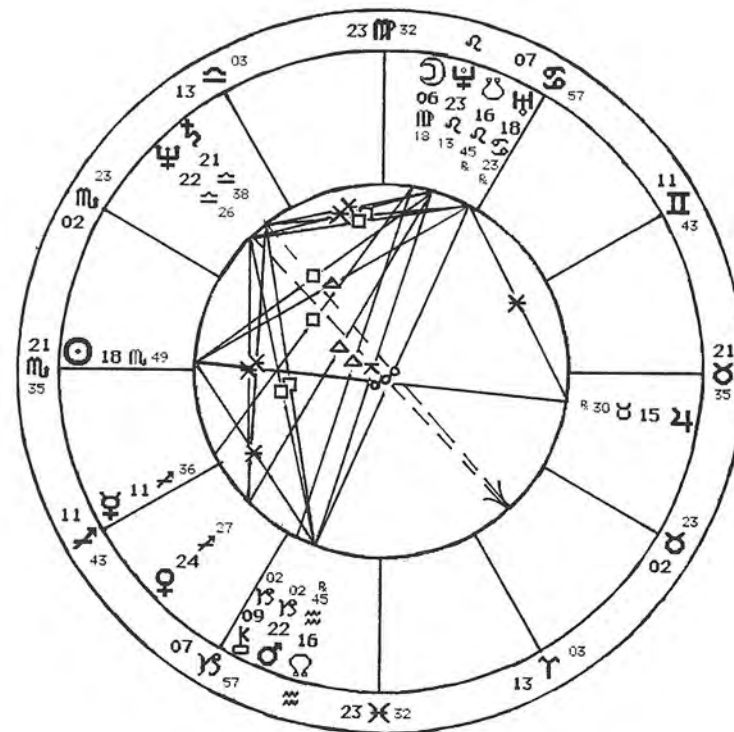
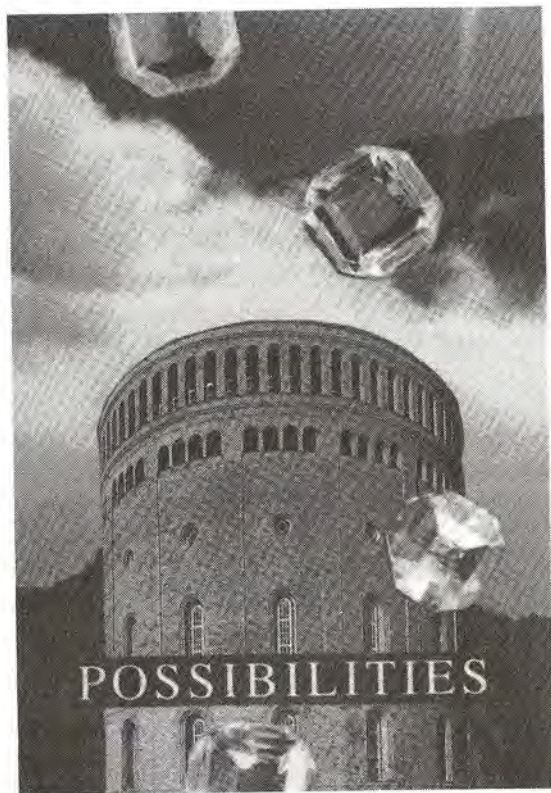
The Crushing Blows of Cultural Boredom

One of the more demoralizing forms of modern socialization comes as the crushing cultural boredom of these times. With the current economic marketing trend known as "cocooning", many consumer products are being packaged and sold with an eye for keeping folks "safe and secure" inside their homes; families gather 'round home entertainment campfires and computer work stations. When 24-Hour News stations constantly confirm what a "dangerous world it is out there", they maintain the "only bad news sells" axiom of media cynicism. Television news anchors achieve near celebrity personality status; every hair in place while announcing two thousand more deaths in Ethiopia; cut to a Toyota commercial. It's really quite surreal when you pause to think about it.

Cultural ennui is something that millions of young people -- teenagers, especially -- are keenly aware of, if only because the young haven't numbed down to the dismal, dreary truth yet. The attempt to cope with this awareness might explain in part the rampant use of mind-altering drugs for escaping the godawful boredom of too much Saturn; too many external imposed rules, moralities, pressures, Etc. Until genuinely reality-challenged teenagers can create and maintain their own "separate realities", getting high is going to continue being a legitimate option for slowing down their inevitable collision with *terminal adulthood*. The most intelligent, autonomous teenagers enter their twenties with minimal psychic and emotional damage *by prolonging their adolescence*. They somehow manage to not buy into the system as rapidly as their gung-ho peers. By persisting in their own self-created worlds, they can forge the internal references for producing their own pressures, values and views. As a rule there's not much sanction granted for getting high and staying high in a Saturn-rich environment; in fact, it's against the law. When a human being is deprived of the rapturous and ecstatic experiences natural life has to offer, something sad happens. Spiritually, we shrink, eventually shrivel up and die. With consensus sanctions behind tobacco, booze and sex, one must still possess a strong imagination and vital force of will to stay high -- that is to say, *spiritually alive* -- in any Saturn-based culture.

Freedom within a form may be as free as freedom gets for daily human life on earth. How you define your freedom doesn't necessarily guarantee its realization, either. Your terms must in some way respect and conform to the existing state of things in the material, earth plane before you can effectively express more autonomy there. Natal Saturn is a good place to start figuring out where and how to achieve more freedom within the form of your reality structures; how you draw boundaries or set down rules to experience the full extent of your freedom in that area. Natal Saturn in the Seventh State (& to some extent, Libra) symbolizes the need for building bridges *with the partner* -- mutually sanctioned and enforced rules, borders & plans -- before a real relationship can fully materialize.

Saturn in the Eleventh State (& to some extent, Aquarius) represents the necessity for community-building -- gatherings, rituals & humanitarian causes -- *already sanctioned by the collective* one attempts to fit into before a solid sense of tribal belonging and lasting friendship can develop. Natal Saturn in the Second State (& to some extent, Taurus) needs to build economic structures that somehow align with *how the status quo defines security*, before real financial independence can be acquired. Wrestling with Saturn can be a formidable task. Without an outgoing assertion of pressure in your life (see natal Saturn), you are more likely to passively conform to external consensus pressures. Create your own pressures; with the force of your commitment, *anything is possible*.



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THE CHANGING SKY (*transits & progressions*)
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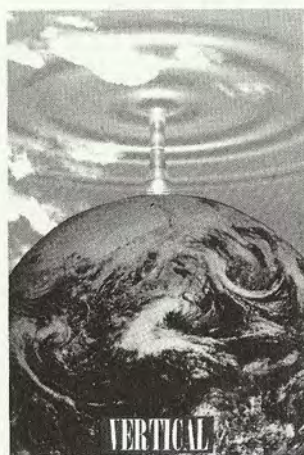
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About the author

Antero Alli is a part-time astrologer and author of *ANGEL TECH*; *ALL RITES REVERSED*; *PREGNANT UNIVERSE* (with CS Hyatt, PhD); *THE AKASHIC RECORD PLAYER*; *ASTROLOGIK*; *LETTERS, ESSAYS & PREMONITIONS*; *THE VERTICAL ORACLE* (with Sylvie Pickering). His essays and columns have appeared in *Whole Earth Review*, *Details*, *Mountain Astrologer*, *Planet Earth*, *Attitude* (UK), *Towards 2012*, and many other publications. He was born 11/11/52 (21 degree Scorpio ASC). Antero's life beyond astrology includes the scripting, developing and directing of videofilms, intermedia stageplays and paratheatrical group rituals. He also plays tennis.



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Antero Alli

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